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COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

issued in conjunction with

AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009

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AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009 | KUALA LUMPUR



AFS in 2020:

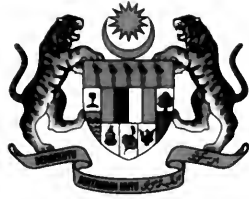
“We pursue our mission by providing quality intercultural learning opportunities for a growing number of young people, families, other stakeholders and wider audiences, thus developing an inclusive community of global citizens determined to build bridges between cultures.

Real life experiential learning, supported by structured reflection, is the core of our programs. We endeavor to link our intercultural learning opportunities to the defining global issues facing humanity. We reach out to past, current and future participants, volunteers, and other stakeholders using the media and technology they use.

Volunteers and volunteerism are who we are. Our organization brings about changes in lives through and for our global community of volunteers.

We are recognized as an educational organization by schools and the appropriate authorities. We work to create a regulatory environment that supports our programs.

As a learning organization, we welcome change and critical thinking. We are innovative and entrepreneurial in advancing the strategic directions, working together with others whenever appropriate.”



PRIME MINISTER MALAYSIA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

I wish to congratulate AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia for hosting AFS World Congress in Malaysia and extend a warm welcome to all delegates, staff members, embassies, volunteers and returnees.

As an NGO, AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia has come a long way and to see our students being hosted abroad and students from other countries being hosted in Malaysia in the spirit of bridging cultures is indeed an honor which I am very proud to say that AFS has done a good job over the years.

The choice of the venue for the Congress is most appropriate for geopolitically 'Malaysia is Truly Asia', as our tagline says. In addition, the cornerstone of Malaysia's rapid progress since independence, has been attributed to the fact that diversity has not only been harnessed but also celebrated.

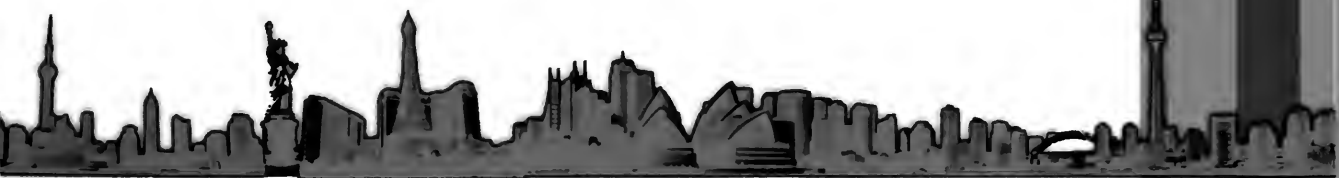
It would be wonderful to see the presence of almost every country from 4 corners of the world. It will be great to see AFS exchanges from more countries: South America, Africa, East and West Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific.

It is most heartening to note that the missions of AFS and that of Malaysia have very close parallels. As such, we have a lot to share among us. To all the delegates, please come forward and share our rich cultural heritage.

Let me wish all the delegates the best in your deliberations and hope momentous resolutions be passed.

1Malaysia "People First, Performance Now"

(DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB)





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To AFS World Congress Delegates,

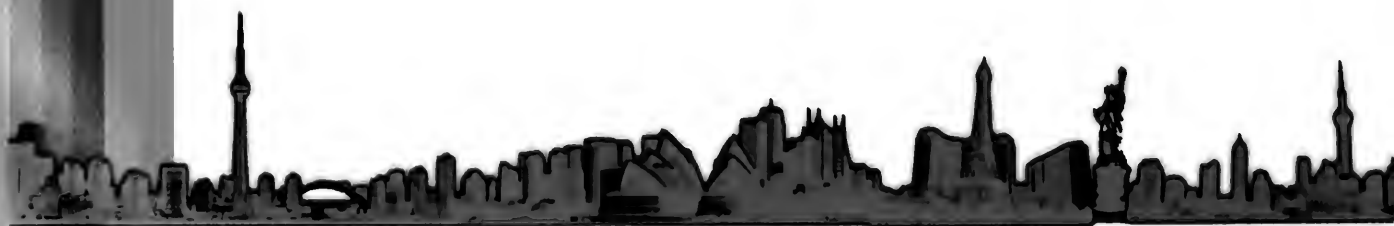
It is a great pleasure to welcome members of the Board of Trustees, National Board Chairs, National Directors and friends of AFS to Kuala Lumpur.

This year's World Congress takes place in the midst of a global recession that is straining our network and affecting all our exchange programs. Still, we have been able to weather the storm and keep our eye on a future of recovery and growth with quality.

Our 2020 goals will be the focus of our attention as we consider new approaches to fulfill our objectives. The only thing sacred is our desire that each AFS student has a transformational intercultural experience. That is what motivates us and that drive for quality will continue to distinguish AFS.

I look forward to greeting you in the wonderful multi-cultural nation of Malaysia, one of AFS' most successful partners.

Brian Atwood,
Chair
Board of Trustees





BRIDGING CULTURES

ACTING ON THE VISION

I am delighted to address you through the medium of this Commemorative Book of the AFS World Congress held this year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. By the time you read this, the leadership of the AFS worldwide network will have assembled once again to look forward to one more year of working together, united in our enthusiasm for the essential vocation of AFS. We have an exceptional opportunity every year to discuss as a group and in many instances, on a one to one basis, the important issues that accompany the vital AFS task of fulfilling the mission of creating a world in which intercultural learning brings us closer together in our pursuit of a more just and peaceful world.

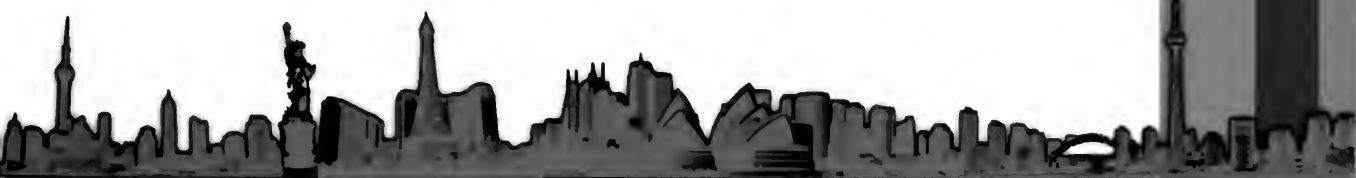
We are very glad to be back in Asia this year and especially to be here in Malaysia. This is a country whose population comprises a great variety of ethnic groups and is host to a teeming number of vibrant cultures. This wealth of diversity is representative of the core values of AFS; it is the heart of our organization. We are thrilled to be here, if only for a short time, to enjoy the hospitality and experience the rich and vital Malaysian culture.

This year has been a year of great opportunity and challenges for our organization, and indeed for the world. But we are not new to facing challenges and each year we grow more adept at seizing the opportunities that come our way. The fact that we have spent so much time together crafting a new AFS Vision for the year 2020 is a testimony to our willingness to look to the future as we endeavor to continue to make AFS the best intercultural education exchange organization that it can be. We are gathered now in Malaysia to discuss how to best implement it.

Finally, as you read through this book, I know that you will agree with me in that AFS Malaysia has done an incredible job of organizing a World Congress that is filled with activities and opportunities to advance the AFS agenda and has given the AFS leadership a magnificent forum for our meeting. I would like to gratefully acknowledge all of our friends in Malaysia who have worked so hard to put together this impressive program. I would also like to recognize the support of the Malaysian government, the many foreign embassies and their representatives, private corporations and individuals, both here and in the larger AFS Network who have helped make this Congress a reality.

TERIMA KASIH dan SELAMAT MAJU JAYA KEPADA AFS MALAYSIA !

Francisco (Tachi) Cazal
President and CEO
AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.





**BRIDGING
CULTURES**
ACTING ON THE VISION
AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009 KUALA LUMPUR

I wish to congratulate Ms. Shazalya Mohammad for rising to the challenge of producing this beautiful Commemorative Book, despite the many challenges and with the help of just two other equally dedicated and determined members on the Editorial Board. AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia is very proud to be able to share with all of you the two books issued in conjunction with World Congress 2009.

Looking at the quality and contents of *Letters Home* and *Commemorative Book*, I myself am impressed with the finished product. I trust they will also be a source of inspiration to

- The volunteers, **the lifeline of AFS** to reach a higher level of dedication
- The Board Members, **the brain of AFS** to be more innovative
- The staff of National Office, **the limbs of AFS** to keep moving forward and in tandem with the directives of the AFS Boards
- The returnees, **the flag bearers of AFS** to reach out to more hearts and reach greater heights

In AFS, we work with any community that is involved in

- Peace movement
- International student exchange bodies
- Intercultural learning and education disciplines
- Not-for-profit and volunteer based NGOs
- Breakers of ethnic, cultural, religious and language barriers

We are thus a unique organization, cutting across several communities, absorbing the essence of each into a cohesive whole. Most AFS activists are passionate of the AFS cause and where other like-minded individuals may just daydream, these activists are ready to take decisive action to make a change. In the words of Desmond Tutu: **"Compassion is not just feeling with someone, but seeking to change the situation. Frequently, people think compassion and love are merely sentimental. NO! They are very demanding. If you are going to be compassionate, be prepared for action."**

Going forward, we must continue to be pro-active and be guided by what Bob Stewart said "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Light of peace becomes circles of peace. Circles of peace become communities of peace."

And that, after all is the mission of AFS – to bring peace to all communities by promoting international understanding of various cultures and peoples.

Where there is understanding, there is tolerance; and wherever there is tolerance, peace will dwell. If all communities learn to understand and tolerate one another, we will soon have a planet of peace!

In closing, I wish all of you a very good World Congress 2009 and to the overseas participants, *"Selamat Datang ke Malaysia"*. We hope your visit to Malaysia will be a memorable one.

Dr. Yahya Mat Hassan
Chair
AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia



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AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2010 KUALA LUMPUR

Hosting an International event has been AFS Malaysia's long standing dream for more than a decade. Once we had hosted the Program Staff Training in 2003, we became more confident of ourselves and as we were thirsty for more, started lobbying in earnest for the World Congress!

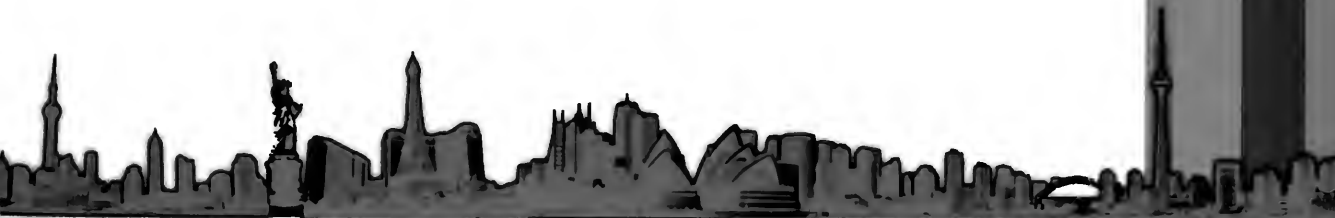
It is indeed an honour for Malaysia to be given the opportunity this year to host the biggest event in the AFS network. While presenting us with a golden opportunity to showcase our diverse culture, proud heritage and beautiful country, it is also an acknowledgement of our contribution to the AFS community worldwide. This is something that AFS Malaysia has always worked towards and we are very pleased that our efforts to "Walk the Talk" are now recognized.

One of the advantages in hosting the World Congress is that it brings together returnees and volunteers from different backgrounds, ages and expertise to unite and work together towards a common goal. On the reverse side of the coin, it is a challenge to keep these diverse individuals collaborating well enough to form a good working team, marching to the beat of the same drum.

Crossing racial, age and socio-economic barriers, our volunteers took up the mantle and gave of themselves with renewed spirit and motivation for AFS. Hidden talents have been discovered and recognized. Dormant returnees have awakened and we are very pleased and proud to see the synergy, drive and commitment from all those involved.

Thank you to the volunteers who have displayed the true meaning of commitment and dedication in pursuing a common mission – that of showcasing Malaysia to the AFS world.

Atty Sulaiman
National Director
AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia





BRIDGING CULTURES

ACTING ON THE VISION
AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009 KUALA LUMPUR

AFS Malaysia is very proud to host this year's World Congress. In conjunction with this, we offer you *Letters Home* – a series of letters written by our Shukreen Ma during her one year exchange program in the Netherlands and this Commemorative Book.

What initially started off as a small souvenir program for all delegates, has over the short span of three months, evolved into this hard cover book of which we are justifiably very proud as we feel it can hold its own as a coffee table display book.

This is largely due to the fantastic response from our volunteers, encouraging messages from various Ambassadors and the sharings from our returnees and their host families. Reading the various experiences of our returnees and host families is really a window to the AFS world and an excellent advertisement for the cause. Like one host sibling writes:

As the eldest child, I did not have a confidante until she (Lauren Hesse from USA in 1971) came, so that was a major bonus for me. She taught me that I could have my own ideas. Until then, I had always accepted everything my parents told or did for me...."

(Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir, a well known and respected columnist, social activist and the eldest child of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's longest serving Prime Minister).

I am sure that not many people (and certainly none of the younger generation) are aware of our former Prime Minister's belief in AFS, almost 40 years ago!

In closing, it would be remiss of me if I failed to properly acknowledge those who have worked so hard to ensure the success of World Congress 2009 and those who spent hours ensuring the quality of this Commemorative Book :

- World Congress 2009 Committee
- Anbarasu & Bharathi, who worked on the Book's concept, contents and sponsors
- The Commemorative Team from PR Mode, UiTM who designed the book
- All sponsors and contributors of articles
- Photographers and AFS students for the cover photographs. We know it was not easy to pose for hours under the hot blazing Malaysian sun, especially for the 2 foreign students who were fasting with their host families during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

To all of you, our sincere gratitude for all your contributions, time and effort.

We hope this book will not only help you in your own AFS journey, but will also be a source of many happy memories of World Congress 2009 and our beautiful host country of Malaysia.

Shazalyna Mohammad
Editor & Co-Chair
AFS Malaysia World Congress Committee



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Shazalyna Mohammad

Project Co-ordinator

An AFS Returnee's Letters Home

Anbarasu Suppiah

Head of Newsletter Publication

Khalilah Dato' Mohd Talha

Head of Video Production

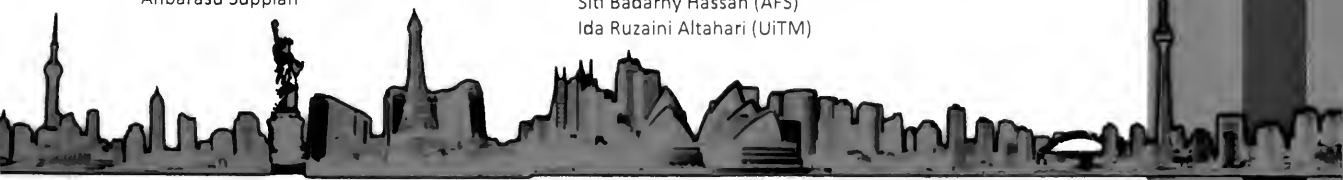
Shazawati Mohammad

Project Co-ordinators for PR MODE

students of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)

Siti Badarny Hassan (AFS)

Ida Ruzaini Altahari (UiTM)



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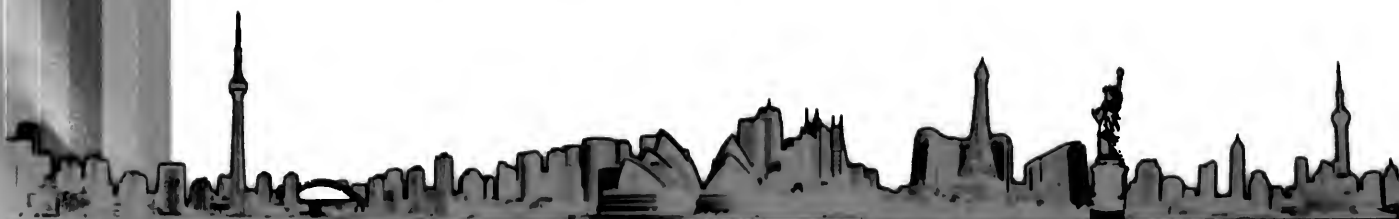
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AFS Malaysia Commemorative Book

Head of AFS Malaysia Commemorative Book
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Photos, Design and Layout
PR Mode students of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)



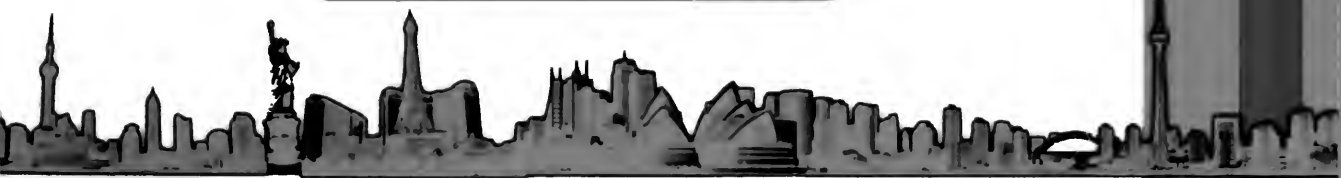
An AFS Returnee's Letters Home (The Netherlands) by Shukreen Ma



Project Coordinator
Anbarasu Suppiah

Author
Shukreen Ma
Returnee from The Netherlands 2000/2001

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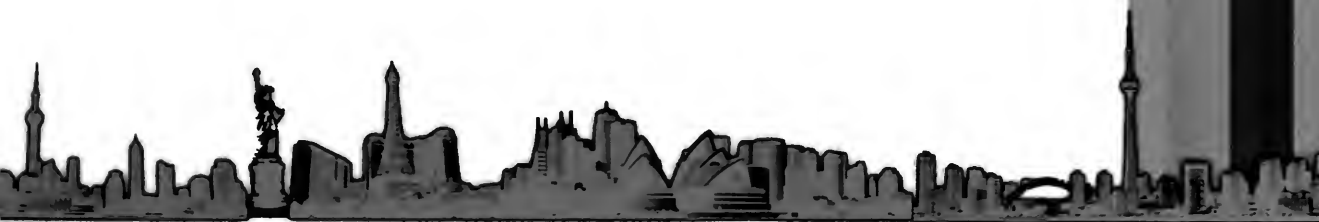
As an AFS returnee, I am very pleased to be in Malaysia at the time that AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia is hosting the 22nd AFS World Congress. Earlier in my assignment as Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, I was able to be part of AFS Malaysia's 50th anniversary celebrations - a real highlight of my posting here. It seems fitting, given that we have just marked that important anniversary, that the AFS World Congress is taking place in Malaysia.

AFS plays an important role in developing relationships across the globe and promoting intercultural understanding. For those of us who have been fortunate enough to have an AFS experience, we understand this at a very personal level. My experience as an AFSer in Indonesia in 1981-82 certainly moulded my interest and commitment to this region of the world and finally my choice of career!

I have been pleased to meet a number of Australian AFSers in Malaysia since I have been here and I very much hope that their numbers can increase over the coming years. I am very committed to increasing the number of young Australians who have some experience of Malaysia – including through exchange programs and would love to see a much larger number of Australian AFSers here. I am sure that holding the World Congress in Malaysia will raise the profile and increase the level of interest in Malaysia as a destination country for students.

I would like to congratulate AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia on hosting this year's World Congress and wish every success to the delegates in your deliberations and discussions. I look forward to meeting many of you during the Congress.

HE Penny Williams
Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia





AUSTRIA

The AFS world wide network of non-governmental and non-profit organizations provides intercultural learning opportunities for young people, helping them to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding needed in our multicultural world.

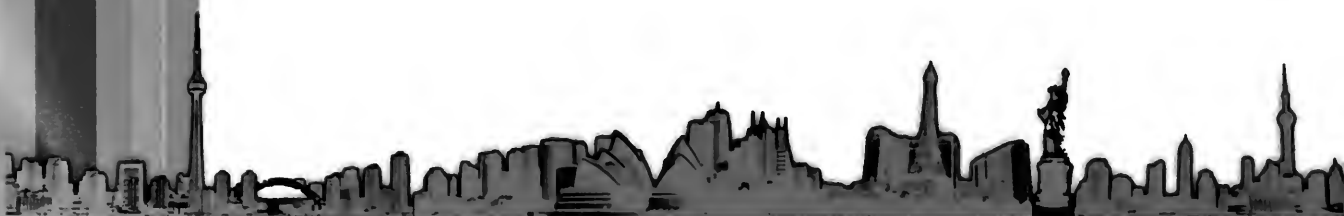
A short while ago, I had the opportunity to witness AFS Malaysia handing over young students from around the world to their host parents for the duration of one year. I must say it was an amazing experience to watch the courage of these students (which included some Austrian students) who came here to learn to understand Malaysian culture and way of life. These young people were confident and full of energy. It could not have been easy for a 16 year old student, to leave family and friends behind and come to a country where he/she has never been, totally unaware of what the coming year holds, yet looking so calm and assured as these students did during this ceremony.

This achievement can only be credited to AFS Malaysia, their overall professional organization, reputation and the support, continued assistance and care to the students and the host parents here in Malaysia.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate AFS Malaysia for a fantastic job providing young aspiring students with a better understanding of different nations and cultures as well as at the same time broadening their horizons.

Additionally I wish all of you a very successful AFS World Congress 2009.

Wolfgang M. Gmasz
Counsellor/Consul and
Deputy Head of Mission
Austria Embassy





BELGIUM

On the occasion of AFS World Congress 2009 being held in Malaysia for the first time, it is my great pleasure to salute the participants of this event which is important both for AFS and the host country of Malaysia.

Belgium is one of the pioneer countries of AFS and thousands of young Belgian students flocked to the United States of America in the post second world war years in order to experience a final year of high school studies abroad. Although the USA was a foreign country miles from home, the young Belgians were made to feel at home right away by the host families. This special breed of people not only helped the youngsters learn the language, culture and social environment but enveloped the students in a warm and caring environment, which is so characteristic of the AFS programs.

Now more than sixty years later, AFS has largely outgrown these first exchange programs and from a European-American student encounter, it has expanded into a world-wide network of exchanges, encompassing all the five continents of the world, but still provides young people the same unique brand of host family experience.

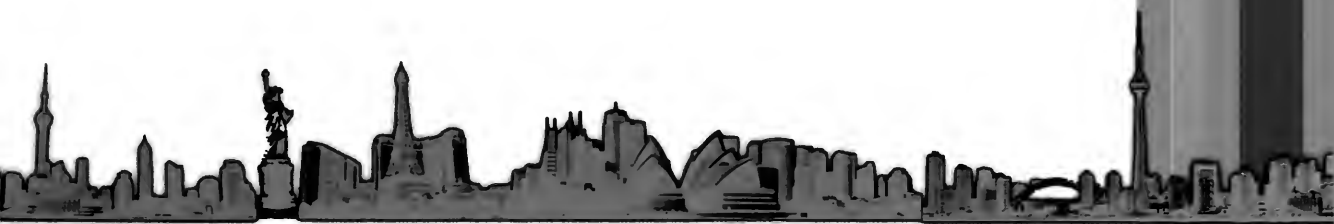
During my various diplomatic assignments, I was able to meet young compatriots on virtually all continents. My contacts with them were sparse as only a few of them lived in the capital cities where I was usually based, but I was always impressed by the positive impact this one exchange year had on them.

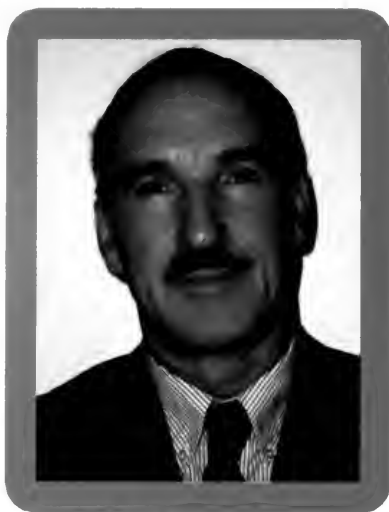
Today in Malaysia we have some young Belgians participating in the program. They will be able to meet with and exchange experiences with the other nationalities and delegates from various parts of the world. Together they will be able to foster discussions on how to take this organization further into this 21st century. I am sure this World Congress will be a successful one and will turn out to be once again a great place for meetings and memories!

My encouragement and my appreciation goes out to the Malaysian organizers, who have done a fantastic job and my best wishes to all participants.

Have a great Congress and a wonderful time!

HE Dr Frank Van De Craen
Ambassador of Belgium





THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

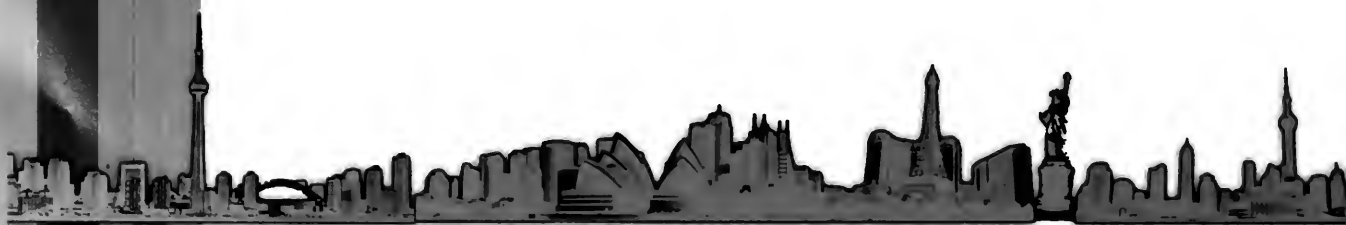
I welcome this opportunity to emphasize the significance of young people leaving their familiar environment for a certain time and learning about other countries and cultures. In today's increasingly globalised world, knowing and understanding each other has become more important than ever. The daunting issues of mankind such as global warming, the economic crisis, the maintenance of peace or the sustainable management of natural resources can only be solved together. We have to realise that we are all members of the same human family and that we need to work together more efficiently and more sincerely than ever before. Intercultural understanding and openness are prerequisites for that.

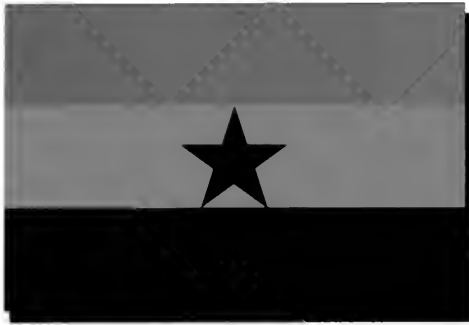
Could there be a better way of acquiring intercultural skills than by immersing oneself in a foreign culture for several months or years? Certainly not.

During my studies as a young man, I spent as much time as possible travelling the world and especially enjoyed visiting South East Asia. Forty years ago, I came to Malaysia for the first time and fell in love with this beautiful country and its hospitable people. Back then, I acquired the intercultural skills without which I would not be who I am today.

I would like to encourage every young woman and man to spend some time abroad and learn about other countries and peoples, and I am grateful to the American Field Service for offering that opportunity to so many young people all over the world. The American Field Service deserves recognition for its long standing dedication to intercultural exchange. The organisation has been making a great contribution to intercultural understanding and thereby to peace and harmony in the world.

HE Dr. Gunter Gruber
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany





GHANA

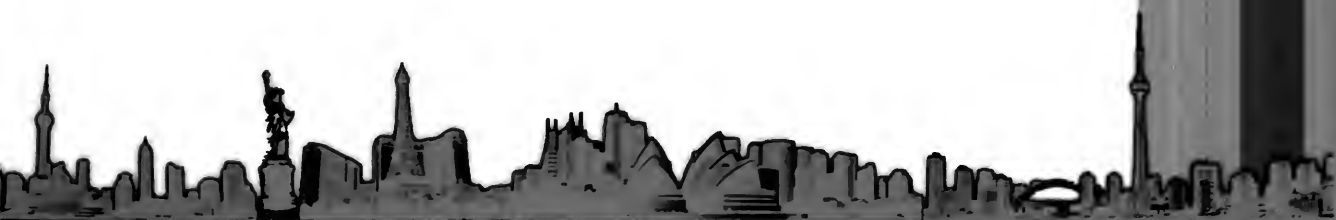
On the occasion of the 22nd AFS World Congress which also marks 62 years of the existence of this unique organization, I wish to congratulate the Executive and all members of the Association on their commitment and excellent work that has made AFS what it is today.

Ghana has since the launch of the program in 1958, been very active in the activities of AFS. Most Second Cycle Schools in Ghana have formed AFS clubs / societies which nominate members to participate in AFS exchange programmes and I am pleased to note that the beneficiaries of these programmes have on their return to Ghana, shared experiences acquired with their peers and contributed positively to the lives of not only members of the AFS clubs but to the Ghanaian society as a whole.

As members of the AFS gather here in Malaysia for this 22nd World Congress, it is my hope that new ideas will emerge from the deliberations so as to place the association in a better position to prepare and meet the challenges of this ever changing and globalised world.

Long Live AFS.

Muhammed Fuseini Inusah
Charge d’Affaires
Ghana High Commision





JAPAN

I am very happy to pen a few words for this Commemorative Book issued on the occasion of AFS World Congress 2009 in Malaysia. Let me express my heartfelt congratulations to AFS Malaysia for celebrating its 52nd Anniversary of inter-cultural exchange.

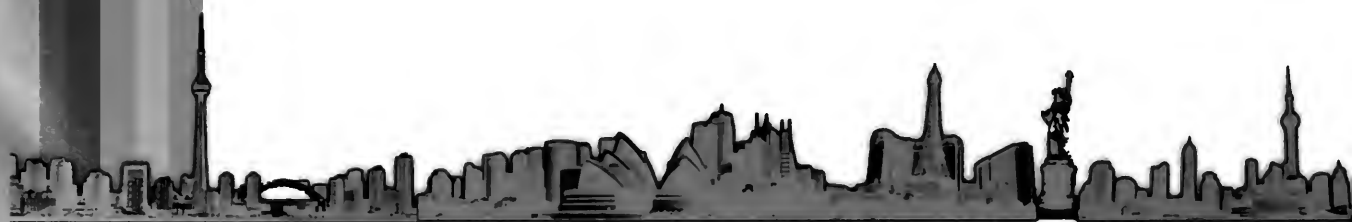
The Japanese Government has been working closely with AFS in many exchange programs, most notably the Japan East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth Program. This program, known as JENESYS, was launched in 2007 to promote friendship and mutual understanding among youth in Asian countries. One of the major features of this program is to invite young students from the East Asia Summit member countries to visit Japan. AFS Malaysia has played a pivotal role in the facilitation of this program, bridging the relationship between Malaysian youth and Japanese youth.

I believe that AFS, by providing a platform for youth to gain inter-cultural learning experiences, is making a tremendous contribution to expanding the potential of the youth in Asia, who will become our future leaders.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Organising Committee for their tireless efforts in making this event possible and hopefully the World Congress 2009 will chart a higher path for AFS for the next 50 years!

Wishing you all the best!

HE Masahiko Horie
Ambassador of Japan





THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

*'Walk together, talk together, all you people of the world,
Then, and only then, shall there be peace'*

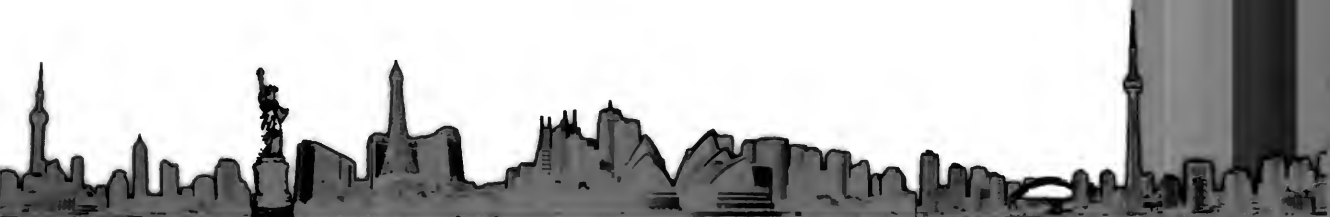
This song was planted in my mind thirty years ago, at the beginning of my AFS adventure, and never left. The words exemplify the true meaning of the AFS program. Through the intense exposure to other cultures, youngsters come to appreciate the fact that all people basically are the same, whichever place they are from. On the threshold of adulthood, they learn that all are concerned about the exact same things (although they may name it differently), they all want to belong, they all want to be loved.

This fundamental awareness encourages and strengthens them to contribute to this world as responsible people, in a way that is captured so well in those simple phrases.

As a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-lingual society, Malaysia is a most appropriate host to the AFS World Congress. I would like to thank the organisers of the conference and through them the many volunteers worldwide. They have made and continue to make AFS an organisation that enriches the lives of thousands of young people and families.

I would like to wish them all a very fruitful and enjoyable Congress.

Paul Bekkers
Ambassador of Royal Netherlands Embassy





THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

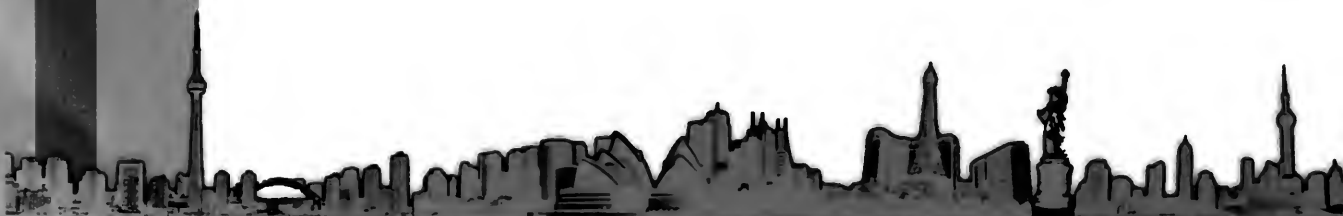
I wish to congratulate AFS Malaysia on the successful hosting of AFS World Congress 2009 from 20th to 25th October 2009.

Throughout these 52 years of intercultural exchanges, AFS Malaysia has promoted a number of programs and activities which have contributed much to the field of international cultural exchange - from multi national student exchanges and international scholarships to community service programs.

Like other countries in the AFS world, AFS Thailand has followed the similar path of upholding internationalism among the peoples and communities around the world, especially among our young generation.

On this occasion of AFS World Congress hosted by our Malaysian friends, I am delighted to witness the growth of AFS as one of the most competent organizations which helps to promote awareness of cultural diversity but cherishes the strength within multiculturalism of the world today by bringing people closer together.

HE Thana Duangratana
Ambassador of The Kingdom of Thailand





TURKEY

It is a great pleasure to have been asked to pen a congratulatory message on the occasion of AFS World Congress 2009. Over the years, AFS has played a significant role in bringing together young people from various countries to help them develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

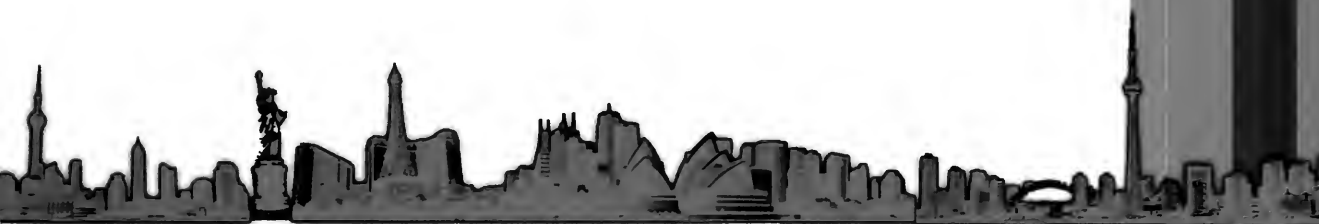
Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my thanks to AFS Malaysia for hosting this year's World Congress.

Turkey's involvement with AFS activities started in 1952 with the participation of two Turkish high school students in its exchange program. Since then, thousands of Turkish youngsters as well as their families have opened their minds, hearts and homes to enjoy and contribute to the intercultural exchange opportunities offered by AFS. The purpose and core values of this organization are in line with the tenets of the Turkish education system, which aims to raise tolerant generations who will understand and appreciate other cultures.

I wish the organizers and participants alike a successful event.

With Best Regards,

HE Barlas Özener
Ambassador of Turkey



AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009.MALAYSIA

WELCOME *SELAMAT DATANG*



Dear Delegates,

I extend to you the warmth and friendship of the people of the United States of America. I wish you productive meetings and a very enjoyable stay in Malaysia.

I especially want to acknowledge the AFS alumni who participated in Youth Exchange and Study (YES) programs sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia and the U.S. Department of State.

Welcome and "Selamat Datang" to Malaysia.

Ambassador James R. Keith



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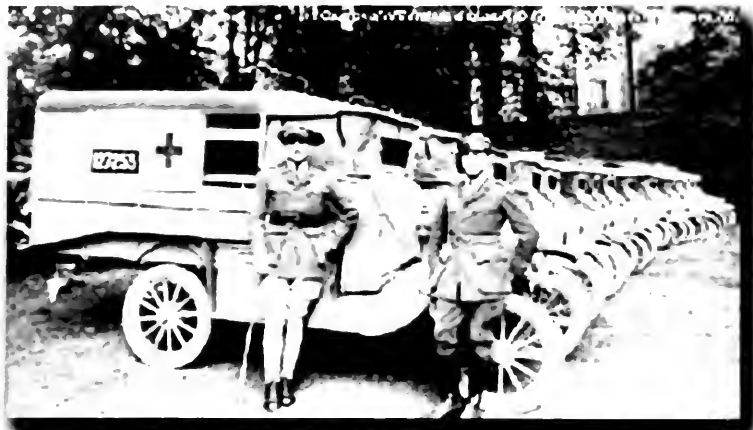
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American Field Service

The American Field Service was founded in 1914 by A. Piatt Andrew and Steven Galatti to evacuate the wounded from the battlefield. By the end of WWI in 1917, AFS had grown to include 2,500 ambulance drivers who had been responsible for transporting more than 500,000 wounded to safety.



Andrew and Galatti during WWI with the ambulances

With the demise of A. Piatt Andrew in 1936, Galatti became the Director General of the organization. He created AFS Fellowships in French Universities and helped to send 222 college students to and from USA.

In 1939, when WWII commenced, Steven Galatti re-organized AFS and commandeered ambulances to serve in France, North Africa, Middle East and Italy.

After the war, Galatti and 250 AFS drivers pledged to continue the tradition of international service and created the AFS international scholarships.



Ambulance and drivers in WWII

In 1947, AFS awarded 52 scholarships to students from 10 countries, including some students from former enemy countries like Germany and Italy. This certainly defined the movement's mission of peace.

This student exchange program proved to be such a success that by the time of Steven Galatti's death in 1964, it included students from 60 countries around the world.



Arthur Howe, one of only two surviving ambulance drivers seen here with his wife and Malaysia's Shazalyna and Khalilah at World Congress 2008 at Berlin.

Thank you Mr Howe.
Together with your fellow visionaries,
you have made the World a better place.

AFS in the Federation of Malaya was established in 1957 as a branch office of AFS International. The first batch of four students left for the United States of America in 1958. The numbers continued to grow but the destination remained the same for the years between 1958 and 1971.

9 students to be 'Americans' for a year



SIX Malayan girls and three boys who have been "adopted" for a year by American families, will leave today by air via Manila for their new homes in the United States. The students are (above, from left): Miss Eleanor

de Fonseca, Peter Iran Aeria, Che Nuraina Mohamed Nor, Melvin Goon-tine, Chiang Joe Boon, Miss Chung Siew Koon, Miss Chen Swee Gail, Che Jamaliah Rahmat, and Miss Jenny Oh Joo Cheng. (not in picture)

The nine will live in American homes, go to American high schools and live as Americans. They are among 11 others from South-east Asia, awarded scholarships by the American Field Service, a private organization.

Each has a face sheet on Malaya. During the year they will give as much publicity as they can about Malaya to Americans. They will meet boys and girls of their own age group and participate in activities common to American schools.

They are the third party of students from Malaya to go to America to learn and understand the U.S. better. The second party are on the way home and are due at Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

The Straits Times, August 3, 1960 article on Malaysian students awarded AFS scholarships.

In 1971, one Malaysian student went to Italy and in 1975 one each to Denmark, Switzerland and England. Currently our students are sent to more than fifteen countries around the world.

We may be small in the network but we have certainly made our mark internationally. Our very own Siti Khadijah was awarded the most prestigious award in the AFS world – the Galatti Award in 1997. This was all the more special as she was the first Asian to win the award.



DOING MALAYSIA PROUD ... Siti Khadijah posing with the award that she received for her voluntary work.

Outstanding award for Malaysian

LANGKAWI: The programme director of Antara Budaya Malaysia (ABM), Siti Khadijah Hassan, has become the first Asian to be honoured with the Galatti Award for her outstanding voluntary work.

Siti Khadijah received the award from the American Field Service (AFS) International Board of Trustees chairman Dr Wayne L. Edwards at a dinner here on Saturday.

The award is named after Stephen Galatti, who initiated the AFS and transformed it into an organisation which provides cross-cultural experiences in the name of peace.

The award was established in 1963 and is presented annually.

Siti Khadijah, from Perlis, was one of three volunteers who were honoured with the awards for 1997. The other recipients were from Austria and Sweden.



Activities



Building a raft

&

Sailing down the river in Taman Negara



2003 - Program staff training



AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia hosted the AFS Asia Initiative Meeting in 2005

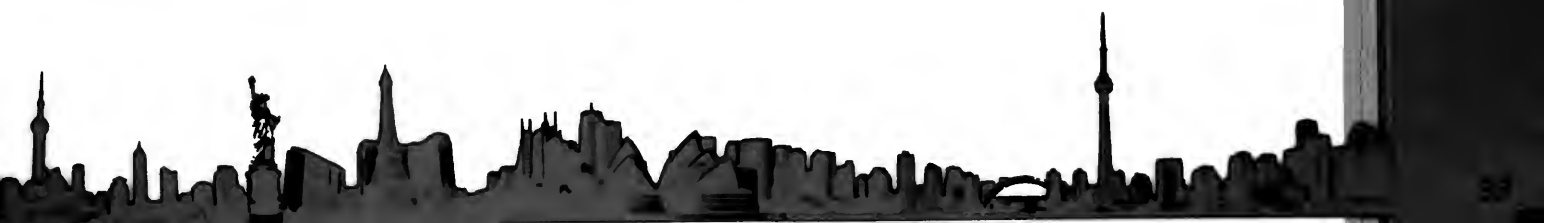
Activities

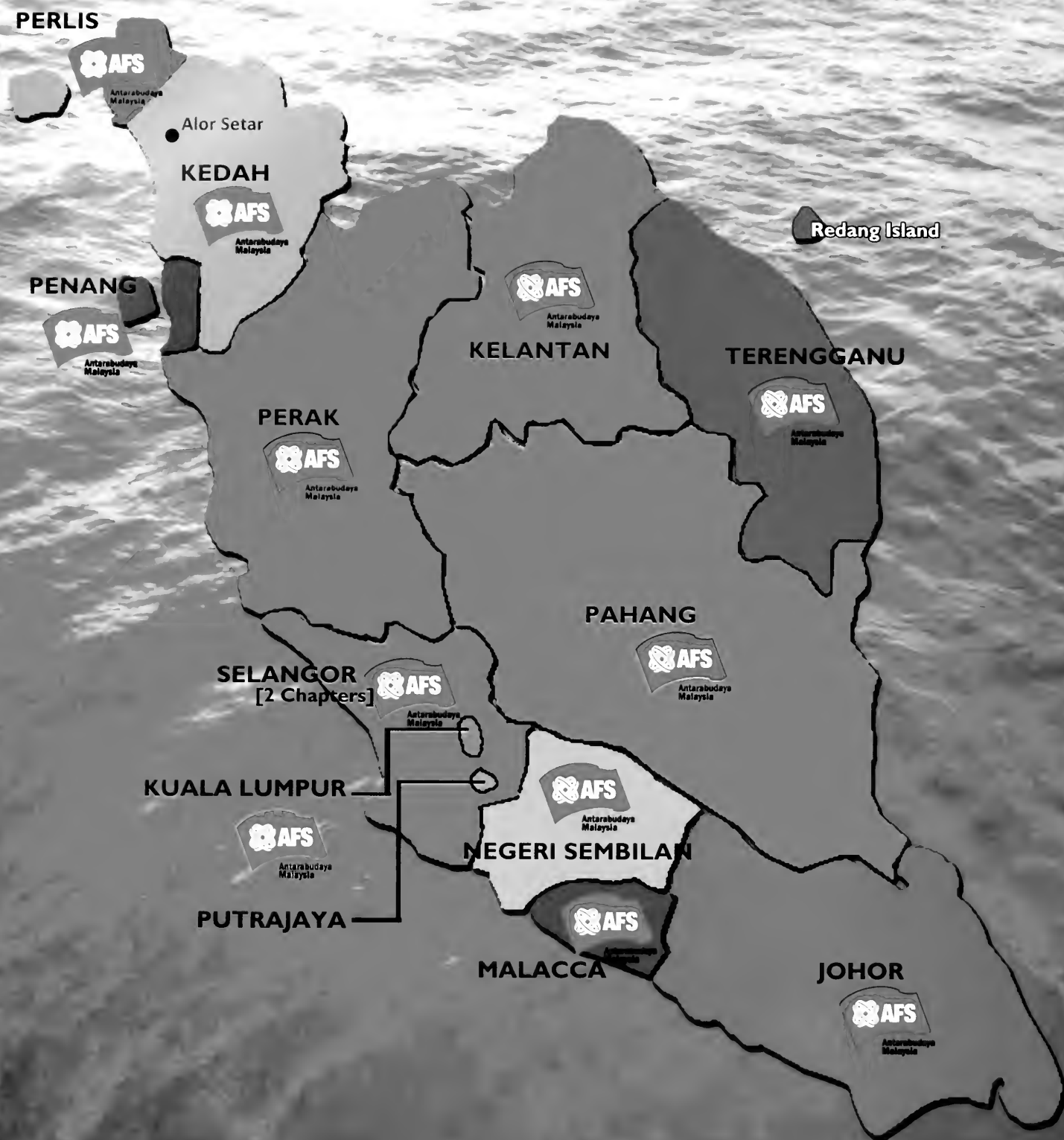


50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2008

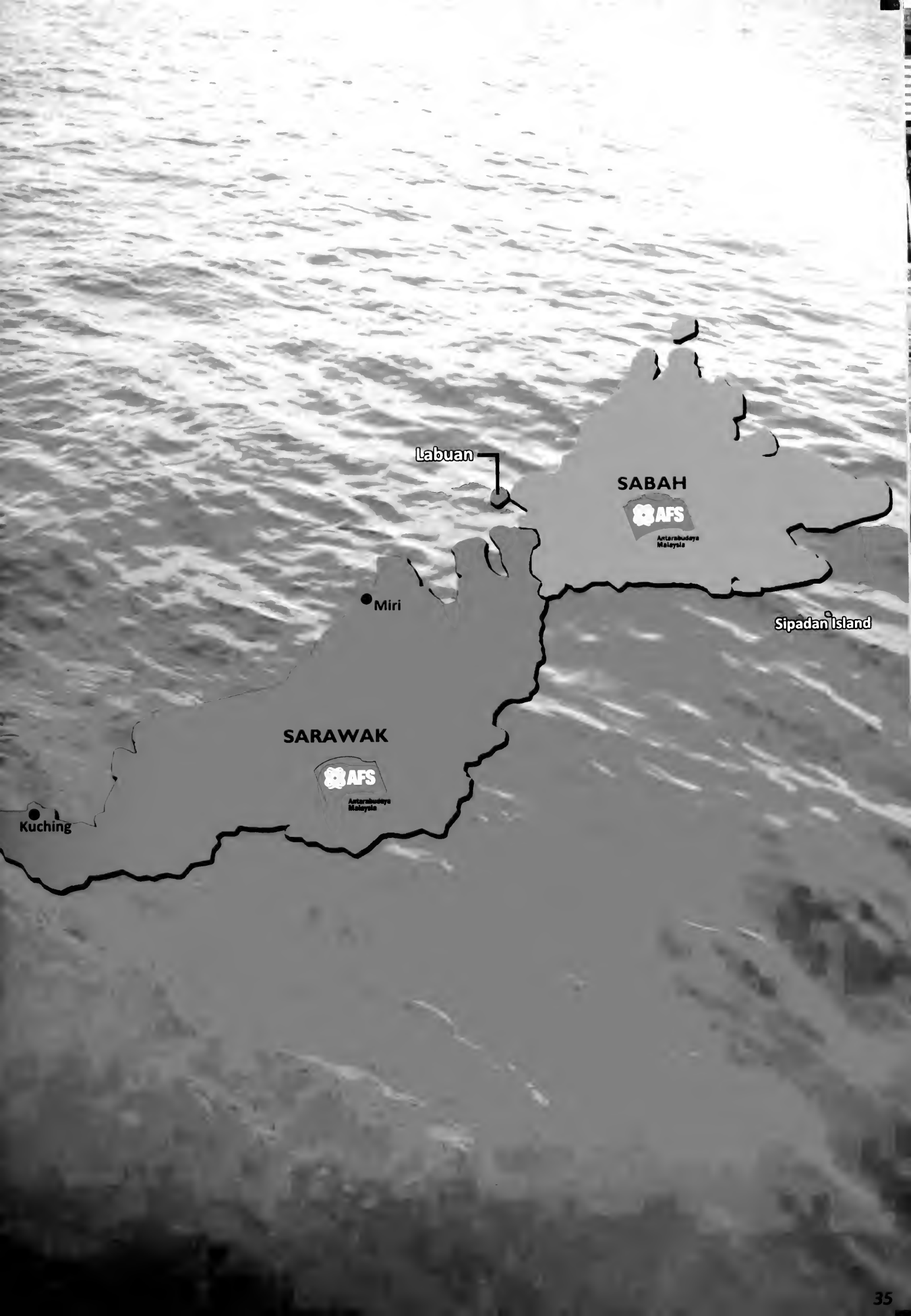


Malaysian delegation to World Congress 2008,
at the Malaysian Embassy in Berlin





*AFS flags denote local chapters



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Sipadan Island

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AFS

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to...





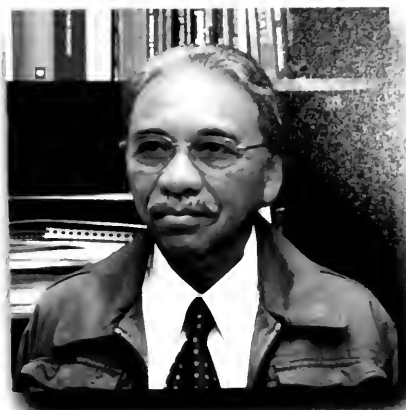
Dr. Yahya Mat Hassan - Leading By Example

Volunteers in Malaysia like their leaders to be present at all their functions, not because they are looking for recognition of their efforts or contributions but out of a genuine desire to involve all levels of the organisation. AFS Malaysia is no exception – both host families and participants look forward to interact with the ‘top people’. Anyone vying for the Chair of AFS thus has to have the time and willingness to be prepared to meet with the volunteers, not only at the scheduled meetings but even at short notice.

Volunteerism in the country is a growing phenomenon with constantly changing goal posts. Leaders should therefore never stop learning and have to lead by example.

When Dr Yahya Mat Hassan was elected as the Chair of AFS Malaysia, the volunteers welcomed him with an open heart. He is a familiar face within AFS and his credentials and background speak volumes for him. Dr Yahya’s first major task was to invest in volunteers, and involve them in as many international events as possible and to help promote Malaysia. This investment, though questioned by a few, has proven a huge success. Despite the recession and other setbacks, AFS Malaysia continues to grow. And for this success, Dr Yahya is largely responsible. He is very involved in every aspect of AFS Malaysia and its activities.

His outstanding academic background as the Head of Department of Physics at University Putra Malaysia, and the Principal of the Residential College have given Dr Yahya sufficient stature to be asked to set up the Faculty of Business Management in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Dr Yahya’s outstanding volunteerism spirit with AFS has spanned more than two decades and he has always been a volunteer at heart since his parents hosted exchange students decades ago.



Dr. Yahya and Atty rapping to Jason’s beat

I have worked with this outstanding man and see much to admire and desire to emulate. Although simple and unassuming, he encourages us to be creative and to aim for the seemingly impossible.

Every once in a while, he even surprises us - like when he put up a rap show during our international volunteer training in Penang a few years ago. We still remember this fondly as it was so unexpected of him. I also understand from a few that Dr Yahya is a very good writer.

Dr Yahya’s siblings and family are true AFS supporters, each supporting AFS in his or her own way.

Dr. Yahya was born in Perlis, Malaysia and completed his secondary education at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. He specialized in the field of microwave electronics and we are extremely proud that it is during his tenure as the Chair of AFS Malaysia, that the Congress is held here.

Shazalya Mohammad



Kak Jah - Extraordinary Service

Siti Khatijah Hassan, affectionately known as Kak Jah in the AFS network, began voluntary work for AFS in 1983. Her commitment to AFS grew steadily from the time she became a host-sister to an Australian student in 1985. She volunteers enthusiastically at the grass roots, national and international levels. Kak Jah has served as the Program Development Director, fundraiser and trainer of new chapters' members, as well as counseling students and conducting orientation programs. Besides, she has also served as President of the Northern Chapter (encompassing the states of Penang, Kedah and Perlis) from 1996 to 2007, and President of the Perlis Chapter (2007-2008). She has also represented Malaysia at several AFS conferences and gatherings of AFS returnees in New Zealand, Thailand and Indonesia.

Currently she serves as the Vice-President of the Perlis Chapter. Additionally, she is the advisor of the Perlis Homestay Program, an event organized in conjunction with the AFS World Congress in October 2009. To her, this is an opportunity of highlighting not only the picturesque Perlis rural scenery, but also the hemoi (esprit de corps) nature of the diverse ethnic groups in Perlis.



Kak Jah has proven to be an effective leader by listening to her co-volunteers, being a fount of information and encouraging her colleagues to offer their suggestions before decisions are made. She seems to have a never-ending supply of energy and enthusiasm that all those who work with her appreciate.

One of Kak Jah's assets is her ability to connect with people, regardless of their social or educational background. She has succeeded in attracting not only bureaucrats and politicians, but also members

of the Royal Family, to support AFS programs. In a nutshell, she is the heart and soul of AFS; so much so, Perlisians refer to her dearly as 'Kak Jah ABM' (Antarabudaya Malaysia). Kak Jah says "Volunteerism gives me joy, as I have the opportunity of bridging intercultural differences, thus helping to create global citizens".



Outstanding award for Malaysian

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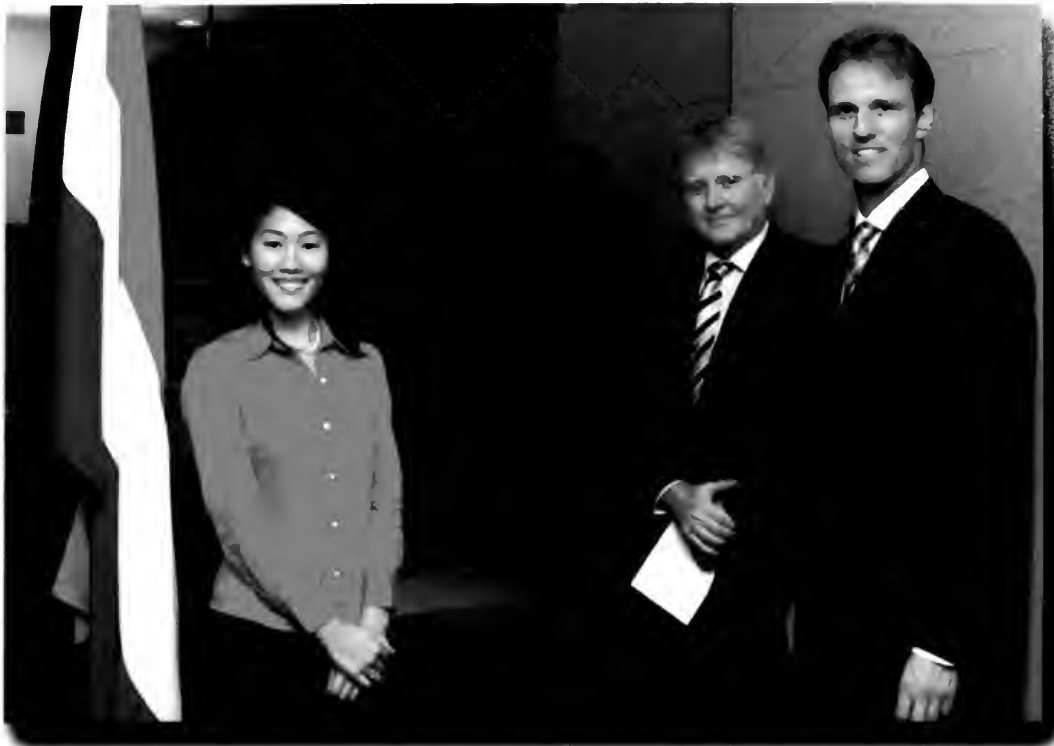
Siti Khatijah, from Perlis, was one of three volunteers who were honoured with the awards for 1997. The other recipients were from Australia and Sweden.

In 1997 Kak Jah became the first AFS volunteer in Asia to be presented with the Galatti Award by the AFS International Board of Trustees. The award acts as a testimony of Kak Jah's outstanding quality of extraordinary services to AFS, especially for her commitment and exceptional dedication in advancing the mission of AFS at the grass-roots level.

The award intensified Kak Jah's efforts and her commitment to the AFS cause. She also continues to fortify her local chapter and its volunteer-base, works tirelessly to involve larger numbers of participants and host-families. Kak Jah believes that "volunteerism gives great pleasure by furthering the good of another human being". Kak Jah is unashamedly passionate of and patriotic to her home-state of Perlis.



Shukreen Ma - Letters Home



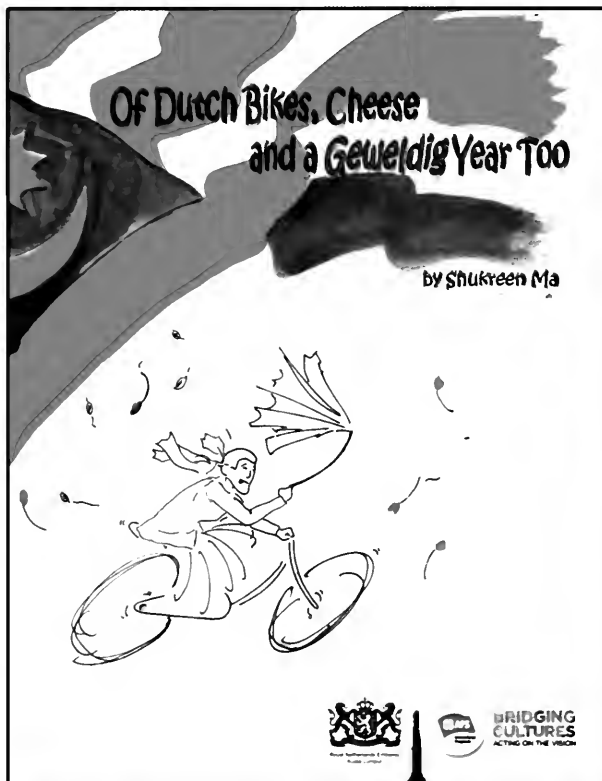
Since 1957, Malaysia has sent some 2,500 students to various countries around the world to experience the AFS student exchange program. All of them have returned with a wealth of memories, a changed outlook and have become more well rounded individuals ready for whatever curve ball life might throw at them.

One name stands out above the rest – **Shukreen Ma**, our ambassador to The Netherlands in 2000 / 2001.

Shukreen's sojourn in The Netherlands is very well documented – in her regular letters to her parents, all of which have been compiled into a special publication as **LETTERS HOME**. The hundreds of letters give us a real detailed glimpse of life in the Netherlands through the eyes of a young Chinese Muslim exchange student. These letters are an extremely well written and moving record of her experiences. What is even more surprising is that she found the time to write at least 2 – 3 letters every week! Her parents must be extremely proud of her – as is AFS Malaysia.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to HE Paul Bekkers, Ambassador of the Netherlands for graciously consenting to underwrite its publication. What makes it all the more special is the fact that the Ambassador is himself an AFSer who spent a year in USA as an exchange student.

We consider it a privilege to offer you this book of letters in conjunction with World Congress 2009. Enjoy Reading!





PROGRAM AND HIGHLIGHTS

AFS WORLD CONGRESS 2009

15th-17th October

- Arrival of AFS International and World Congress delegates
- Arrival of Weltwaerts Work Group (WWG)
- Arrival of European Federation of Intercultural Learning (EFIL)

18th October

- International Workshop for New Board Members and Chairs
- Workshop for Weltwaerts Work Group
- Arrival of European Federation of Intercultural Learning (EFIL)

19th October

- Workshop for New Board Members
- Workshop for Weltwaerts Work Group
- HOO Meeting, European Federation of Intercultural Learning (EFIL)
- Orientation for New Delegates for World Congress I
- Arrival of AFS World Congress delegates

20th October

- Workshop for Weltwaerts Work Group
- Partner to Partner Meeting
- Orientation for New Delegates for World Congress II
- Welcome and Opening Dinner of AFS World Congress Delegates

21st October

- Morning Exercise - Tai Chi
- Opening Plenary of AFS World Congress and Keynote Speech
- World Congress Session Starts

22nd October

- Morning Exercise – Aero-Masala
- Partner to Partner Meetings
- Board of Trustee Meeting
- High Tea Reception at Karyaneka Kuala Lumpur
- Optional visit to Petronas Twin Towers (KLCC), KL Tower and China Town

23rd October

- Morning Exercise – Senam Tari
- AFS Vision 2020
- Orientation for delegates who opt for dinner with AFS Malaysian families
- Malaysian Home Experience, a home dinner with AFS Malaysian volunteers

Weltwaerts

Weltwaerts is a volunteer service which is a support program of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the German Government. It posts young volunteers between 18 and 28 years from Germany to different partner organisations in developing countries for 12 months. Countries involved includes Bolivia, Brazil, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia and Venezuela.





24th October

- Morning Exercise – Yoga
- Arrival of Youth Exchange Studies (YES) delegates
- Regional Meetings :
 - AFS Asia Initiatives (AAI)
 - Southern Cone
 - Caribbean-Andes
- Foreign Focus – Embassies Reception, Kuala Lumpur
 - Australian High Commissioner's Hi Tea Reception, hosted by HE Penny Williams
 - Japan Ambassador's Hi Tea Reception hosted by HE Masahiko Horie
 - German Ambassador's Hi Tea Reception hosted by HE Dr. Guenter Gruber
 - Russian Embassy's Hi Tea Reception hosted by Mr. Mikhail Yu Popov (Counsellor - Culture and Education of Embassy of The Russian Federation)
 - USA Ambassador's Hi Tea Reception, hosted by HE James Keith
- AFS Malaysia Gala Dinner in Conjunction with AFS World Congress 2009 at Nikko Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

25th October

- Workshop of ToT (Training of Trainers) Youth Exchange Study (YES)
- Optional Tour to Putrajaya or Malacca
- Departure of World Congress Delegates
- Delegates depart to Perlis for Homestay Program
- Perlis Homestay Program - Handing Over Ceremony by YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Md Isa bin Sabu, Chief Minister of Perlis to Homestay Families at Kampung Ujung Bukit

26th October

- Workshop of ToT (Training of Trainers) Youth Exchange Studies (YES), KL
- Perlis Homestay Program – local activities and visits
- An audience with the Ruler of Perlis
- Dinner and Perlis Cultural Show

27th October

- Workshop of ToT (Training of Trainers) Youth Exchange Studies (YES), KL
- Perlis Homestay Program – local activities and closing dinner

28th October

- Workshop of ToT (Training of Trainers) Youth Exchange Studies (YES), KL
- Perlis Homestay Program – delegates depart for Kuala Lumpur

29th October


- Departure of YES Delegates

YES (Youth Exchange Study)

YES is an innovative high school exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This public diplomacy initiative builds bridges of international understanding, especially between Americans and people in countries with significant Muslim populations. Ten participating countries are Malaysia, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Egypt, Turkey, Ghana, Kenya and Saudi Arabia.

Perlis Homestay Program

Patron - YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Md Isa bin Sabu, Chief Minister of Perlis
Advisor - YB Dato' Seri Radzi bin Tan Sri Sheikh Ahmad





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Kami menganggap sebuah perhubungan yang menemukan keusahawanan dengan wawasan perlu dibina atas asas yang adil dan amalan perbankan terbaik - satu nilai yang berlandaskan keadilan dalam perhubungan sesama manusia, yang kami dokong.

Untuk maklumat lanjut, kunjungi cawangan terdekat,
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We

Welcome

Delegates





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- Partner Director

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- Partner Board Member
Reg Smith
- Partner Board Member
David Hudson
- Partner Chair
Aasha Murthy
- Partner Director

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- Partner Board Member
Johanna Nerneth
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Phillip Wagner
- Partner Chair

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Jan Van Keirsbilck
- Partner Chair
Marcel Kerff
- Partner Director

BELGIUM FR

Anne Sokal
- Partner Director
Damien Francienne
- Partner Chair

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Carla Limache
- Partner Director
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- Partner Chair

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- Partner Staff
Christiane Kaite
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*Our
Chapters
in Pictures*









PEACE

IT'S SOMETHING
WE CAN
CREATE

RESPECTING DIFFERENCES









APS
Art & Photography
Malaysia







Returnees'
Tales





A Teenage Ambassador

If I were asked, what single incident has had the biggest impact on my life, it would definitely be the AFS experience.

To begin with, being selected to be an AFS exchange student was a blessing. The actual journey to and my two month stay in Italy and 6 months in the US under the YES program was an opportunity of a lifetime.

I had such a fantastic time in both these countries, not only because of the chance to imbibe their culture and way of life, but because I had the privilege to be a young student Ambassador for Malaysia, teaching Italians and Americans on what Malaysia was really about.

Forget about the larger than life topics of culture, tolerance, understanding and world peace – I had to address basic questions like

- Do Malaysians still live on trees?
- Do you have electricity at home?
- What about electrical appliances?
- You are Malaysian? But you look Indian!!!
- Where is Malaysia?

I am proud to say I managed to clear the misconceptions of many young American students about our beautiful home country – and I think many of them will definitely visit us when time and money permits. I know I have been quite a tourism ambassador as I did manage to “sell” Malaysia to my peers.

What else did I get out of my AFS experience? My social network is now global, with friends not only in USA and Italy but in the native countries of the other visiting AFS young ambassadors – Brazil, Thailand, Denmark, Chile, Greenland and Japan.

My words above have not done justice to the huge impact AFS has had on me, but if I have inspired just one more student to apply for an AFS adventure, it would be worth it. To share this joy and understanding of one's fellow men should be the goal of all.

And to AFS – a humongous THANK YOU for making it all possible!

Arthi Sathananthar



Boarding School in the Tropics

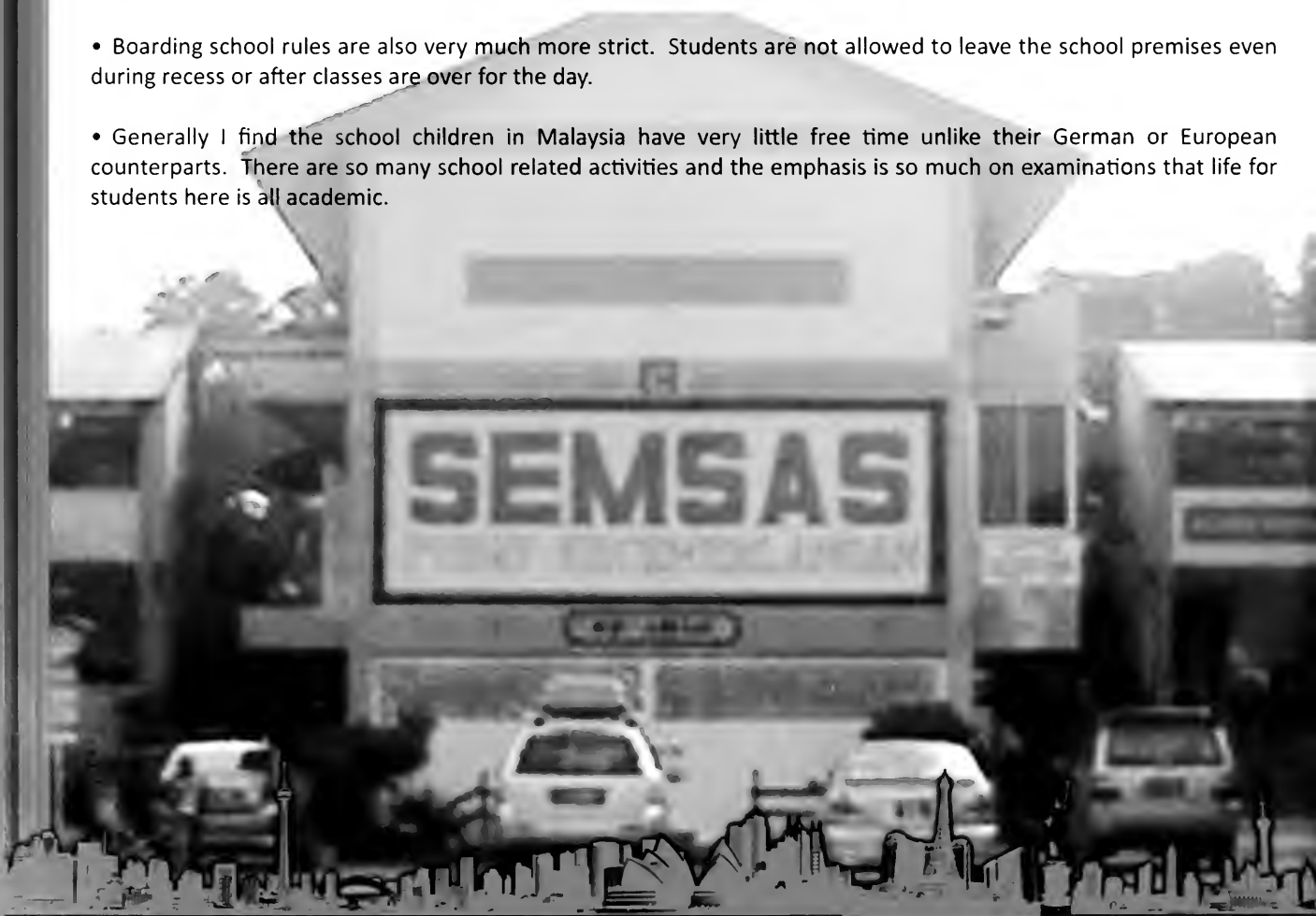
One of the first things I noticed about Malaysia is the food – a large variety of it and at extremely reasonable prices!

The people in Malaysia are very friendly and more trusting unlike in Germany. One can be invited to someone's home even if you are a mere acquaintance and not a long standing friend. In fact during festive occasions, they hold open houses – and everyone is welcome.



When I reported at Sekolah Menengah Sultan Ahmad Shah, Kuantan (SEMSAS), everything was new to me – the culture, language, behavior and method of teaching. School here is very different from back home.

- The most obvious difference is the uniforms. All students in the country wear a common uniform. On Fridays they are allowed to use Baju Melayu (traditional Malay attire) but in prescribed colors. Further, one day of the week, they wear the uniform of the club they belong to like Boy Scouts, Cadets, School Band etc. In Germany, everything resembling uniforms smacks of militancy and is frowned upon.
- Students are very respectful of teachers here. They stand up to collectively greet the teacher at the start of the lesson and thank him or her at the end of the lesson.
- Students also do not openly criticize their teachers or their elders. It is considered rude. In Germany, we are encouraged to speak openly and the young are allowed greater freedom. Of course they would make mistakes but they also have opportunity to learn from these mistakes.
- All students in the school are divided into several sport houses, usually named after colors. There is fierce competition among the different Houses to win the Championship Trophy at the end of the year. This helps to foster not only the spirit of competition, but also helps to build a team spirit between students from different age groups and classes.
- Boarding school rules are also very much more strict. Students are not allowed to leave the school premises even during recess or after classes are over for the day.
- Generally I find the school children in Malaysia have very little free time unlike their German or European counterparts. There are so many school related activities and the emphasis is so much on examinations that life for students here is all academic.



In SEMSAS, besides the classroom teaching, I am also involved in

1. Persatuan Kadet Remaja Sekolah (Junior Cadet Troops)
2. Persatuan Alam Sekitar (Environmental Society). In lined with this, I am planning a paper recycling project.
3. Production of an English drama, which won 3rd placing in a competition in the neighboring state Kelantan.
4. Helping Muhd. Helmie Faqri and Amirul Anuar with their TELESMAART LAUNDRY project for the Science Innovation and Engineering Competition.

During my free time. I teach chess and find it great fun to teach my students how to plan and strategize the movements to that advantage.

Although teaching in Malaysia is very different from what I would be doing if I were in Germany, I am really enjoying it and I know my experiences here will stand me in good stead in the future.

For this opportunity, I am grateful to AFS

To my colleagues and students of SEMSAS – Terima Kasih!

Benjamin Gerks

MALAYSIA MY SECOND HOME PROGRAMME (MM2H)

MALAYSIA - MY SECOND HOME

A Place to Call HOME

Malaysia My Second Home Programme is promoted by the Government of Malaysia to allow people from overseas, to stay in Malaysia on a social visit pass (10 years) with a multiple entry visa (renewable). The applicants get the freedom privilege to stay and travel as they please and still retain their citizenship and all its privileges in their own country.

ELIGIBILITY

It is open to citizens of countries recognised by Malaysia regardless of race, religion, gender or age. This programme allows applicants to bring with them their spouses, and children who are unmarried and below the age of 21.

INCENTIVES & BENEFITS

House Purchase, Car Purchase, Domestic Helper, Children Education & Tax-free pensions.

***Sign up for the Malaysia My Second Home Programme now
and make Malaysia your home away from home!***



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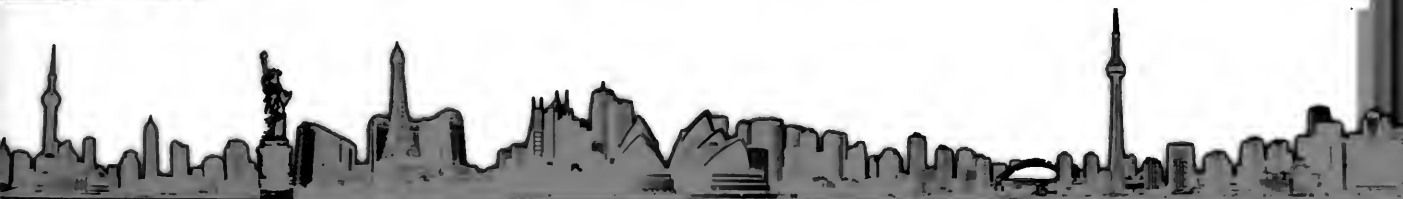
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Intercultural Learning Process



An educational impact study published by AFS in late 2008 found that AFS participants generally have a lower level of anxiety when they come in contact with people of different cultures. This long-term study involved returnees on the program between 1980 and 1986 to gauge how the exchange experience has affected their lives. Among the other findings that I believe most would agree with, is that returnees are generally more adaptable when they are faced with a new environment. In addition to that, the findings also suggest that returnees are more likely to have a network of friends of different cultures, and are able to speak more than one language as compared with their peers who have not been fortunate enough to have participated in the program. Intercultural competency is something that is not developed through a single experience but is a combination of experiences that are cumulative. The study shows that returnees who have also participated in a university study abroad program will show a greater level of inter-cultural competence.

However, it would not be realistic to assume that all participants on the program will have positive changes.

Some participants will face reversal problems when they idealize the host culture to the detriment of their own. Others may be defensive of their own culture. We surely must have lamented at least once on how wonderful life was in the host country. Such rantings are not necessarily negative but the problem arises when a person indulges too much into these thoughts to the point of overly comparing the negative aspects of one's own culture to the other or vice versa. Proper orientation is therefore of paramount importance to help participants resolve issues that may be affecting them. At AFS, the facilitators are trained to recognize participants who may have issues and then work together with them to resolve these issues.

Orientation camp at AFS is a time when participants on the program are gathered during different stages of the program. Among the orientation camps are the pre-departure camp which is held before a participant goes on the program, mid-stay orientation which is held when a participant is abroad and halfway through his or her stay, end of stay which is held just prior to returning home and the return orientation which is held at the home country of the participant.

For those of us who have been on the program, we certainly have fond memories of our participation in orientation camps. Although it seems that these camps are fun and games, they are in fact designed to help participants reflect on their experiences.



By actively reflecting on the experience, research has shown that the learning experience will be more meaningful.

From my experience of being a facilitator to being the organizer of orientation camps, I have always looked forward to these camps. The facilitators play a very important role in making a camp successful as they make things fun and engaging while ensuring the objectives of the orientation camp are met. I am proud to say that many returnees that I have worked with possess such qualities that are undoubtedly very unique to AFSers.



The enthusiasm of returnees is proof the addictiveness of volunteering with AFS. For me, volunteering with AFS is a way to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and continue on the spirit of volunteerism.

Participation in an exchange alone does not automatically ensure intercultural understanding. Each of us plays a role to make this happen. Going on exchange is the first step in which AFS provides a catalyst for this to happen by sending young minds abroad to experience the world. Intercultural competency is developed over time and one of the best ways I found to do so is by volunteering with any other organization that allows for contact with foreign cultures. While I experience no sudden revelation in intercultural competency, I believe that I now have a much broader perspective on what intercultural learning entails. To all returnees, I would encourage you to find time to volunteer with AFS especially in the orientation camps.

Just remember that you are not back as a student but are now part of growing alumni of volunteers that is driving the mission and vision of the organization.

Although it has been almost a decade since I participated in the AFS exchange program, I still have very fond and fresh memories of my exchange days. Just like any 17 year old, I mostly only wanted to have fun, travel and enjoy myself as much as possible. I was drawn to participate in this program to have a chance to go abroad and did not really understand then what it meant to be an exchange student.

Jason is a returnee from Australia in 2000. He currently serves on the Board of AFS Malaysia and is pursuing his Ph.D. in social intercultural learning within the broader context of new media.

Jason Lee

I would have joined the thousands, nay millions, who condemned an entire country over the ignorance of a few
were it not for my AFS experience.

I would have been outraged and judged an entire population due to the idealistic but misplaced convictions of a few
were it not for my AFS experience.

For I have lived among them... laughed and cried with them and
I have loved them.

I still do.

All thanks to AFS which promotes intercultural understanding and
The Greater Objective of World Peace.

We must all walk together and most importantly, TALK together.
Communication leads to greater understanding, appreciation and respect for one another.

To my Danish family
jeg elsker jer alle for evigt!

Khalilah Dato' Mohd Talha



Remember

Remember Cairo
Remember Minya
Remember the Nile
Remember the Sphinx
Remember the camels
Remember the papyrus
Remember the Mummies
Remember the hieroglyphs
Remember Khafre, Khufu and Menkaure

Remember Al-Azhar Mosque
Remember the Egyptian Museum
Remember the Education Seminar
Remember the Khan El-Khalili Bazaar
Remember the Msr Language School
Remember the Future Language School
Remember Mohamed Ali Pasha Mosque
Remember walking through the Citadel

Remember the galabiya
Remember having Khoshari
Remember celebrating Easter
Remember listening to Amr Dhiab
Remember watching sufi dance
And not trying Shisha

Remember the Egyptians
Remember the places
Remember the smiles
Remember the hugs



Remember my home
Remember my family
Remember my room
Remember my mum Waafa
Remember my dad Nabil aka Bob
Remember my dearest papa Adel
Remember my brother and sisters Ahmed, Nora and Nermeen
Remember all those laughs, good times, late nights,

Remember the warm welcome dinner
Remember the tearful farewell party
Remember Cairo International Airport
Remember saying goodbye

Remember the love
Remember the warmth
Remember the passion
Remember the affection

Remember AFS
Remember LOVE
Remember the values
Remember the memories
Remember that WE ARE ALL ONE HUMAN RACE

Thank you AFS
Thank you Cairo.... I miss you!!!

Shoba Devi Balakrishnan

Why I became a police officer



I was 17 and had just completed my final year of high school, when I was informed that I was being sent to Malaysia as an AFS exchange student in 1994. Throughout the selection process I had made it clear that I had no preference regarding the country I would be sent to. I was more specific about the host family.

When I received the news, I had 2 major concerns:

- 1) Where was Miri? I knew it was part of Malaysia but wasn't it in some obscure part of Borneo? How rural was it?
- 2) This was Malaysia – a few months earlier, there had been some friction between the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Australia. Would travel to Malaysia be permitted? Would an Australian be welcome?

It was all needless worry! I was hosted by a terrific family who took such good care of me, travelled with me to several parts of the country and taught me so much about Malaysia. In the process they also changed my perception of Islam!

I was the only student in the exchange program to be posted to Sarawak, Borneo. I am not sure what other students have experienced but I honestly believe I would not have traded places with anyone else – I had a great family, a great support counsellor, and was living in a great State of Malaysia. Sarawak was a fantastic place to live in. Beside the three main races in Malaysia (Malays, Chinese and Indians) there were the Ibans and Dayaks with their own interesting tribal customs and languages.



Mandy and siblings with a long eared tribal native

What do I remember most about Miri, Sarawak? The natural beauty of this land needs to be experienced to be truly appreciated. The drive from Miri to the capital city of Kuching was really beautiful; the Mulu Caves awe-inspiring, travelling down rivers in long boats was an out-of-world experience and visiting the various tribal long houses simply amazing. I have never before seen tribal people with so many tattoos and / or earrings – an amazing and unforgettable experience! I was also lucky enough (my host family organized this for me) to go hiking through the Borneo jungle with a group of six British Duke of Edinburgh students. During this hike, aside from coming across countless leeches, we were fortunate to meet and stay with some Penan people (nomadic tribe from Sarawak) – again, what can you say other than WOW!

Going to school in Miri was an unreal experience – school was so different from Australian schools. My classmates came from different backgrounds, and so I learnt a lot about various cultures and ways of living that were so different from where I came from. More importantly, they were fantastic people to spend time with, and I have maintained contact with many of them (thanks to facebook, skype and email).



As Abah (father) and Emak (mother) were both police personnel, we lived in the Miri Police Compound. As fate would have it, two and a half years after returning to Australia I joined the police force. During my school days in Australia, this had never been a career option but I am sure my Malaysian experience played a significant role in influencing my decision.

I have now passed the Inspectors' exam and hope to continue working my way up the ranks and have a long and rewarding career with the Australian Police Force. I have worked with police members from the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, New Zealand and will soon be going to North America to view various areas of policing. AFS has certainly coloured my life in no small measure. My term in Malaysia has certainly changed my outlook on life and made me the person I am today.



In 2008 my husband and I travelled back to Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak, with our daughters, Faith and Jade. It was fantastic to introduce my Australian family to my Malaysian family and for them to meet the people and places which have had such an impact on my life.

Thank you AFS for the opportunity! Thank you Malaysia for the memories!

Mandy Pearson-McKenzie



AFS and Its Effect on My World!

How was I as a teenager? Very Crazy!! - I was a Boy Scout who spoke my mind, followed my heart, and applied for AFS without warning my parents that I would "lose a year". I was struggling with academics in Form 5, evolving into an art minded science student -- which horrified some of my teachers.

During my AFS year in the States, I was challenged by US History, a required class for graduation while I actually thirsted for the more challenging and exciting Spanish Language classes. My host parents, who were history buffs very soon helped me appreciate history.



My stint at Outward Bound, Lumut (I completed the Standard Course with Merit although my father thought I would drop out mid-way) taught me to appreciate adventure, while AFS opened up the world. With both philosophies as well as the scouting spirit enmeshed in my soul, I headed out to a non-traditional Cornell College, in freezing Iowa, USA; an unorthodox Asian, in a small college surrounded by corn fields.

I got involved with the Afro American community, Spanish Theatre and became the Cornell Ram Mascot. I studied Spanish, Latin American Studies, Sociology and Social Work. And I even missed the cold frigid winters after graduation.

My heart involved me in Vietnamese Refugee Social Work, Outdoor Education and teaching Spanish. My master's degree saw me honing my passions at the School for International Training, in the cold mountains of Vermont, USA, where I blended together HRM, Training, Social Justice and Honduran Street Children Camp management in cold but beautiful Denmark followed with more global youth development work.

How did the experiential spirit enter my inner soul? I know not, but it has been the driving passion in my life, which also catalyzed my battle against a rare form of cancer, diagnosed in September 2000. I still live by my convictions and continue to believe in creating opportunities for young people and some older ones too.



Currently I am here in Cheras and Keramat, but my feet are itchy while my spirit is restless

Jamal Harim Abdullah

Sitting in the gardens of the Chateau de Versailles, I feel almost isolated from the rest of the world. For a moment, I feel as though I'm neither an exchange student, nor a local. I am just another person in this crowd – a citizen of the world you may say. But alas, all too soon, I am snapped back to the reality that I'm a student ambassador representing Malaysia in this gorgeous country that is France. It is then that I realise that I'm one of the lucky people to be living this experience, to know first hand what it feels like to be a foreigner living amongst another race of people, who do not understand the language one speaks and vice versa. One is therefore forced to slowly learn, word by word, another language. For me, the language was French. Till now, never have I regretted choosing France as my exchange country.

The beginning of my experience was a tad unnerving – for the first two weeks, I resorted to daily phone calls home. I cried my eyes out and told my parents I regretted the decision to go to France and that I wanted to be back home amongst the people I love, the people who understood me best. However, slowly, after a few weeks everything started falling into place. Even though language was a major barrier, I slowly started to make friends. There were many times, of course, when I felt like a wilting flower among beautiful blooming roses.

To overcome my homesickness, I decided to go on long walks. During weekends, I'd go to Paris, where I covered the various avenues, frequently discovering some quaint new quarter, small shops and friendly people. During weekdays, I had to stay in Versailles because of school and started spending more and more time with my newly found friends. Gradually, I started to lose the feeling that I was a tourist – I was fitting in and was almost a local. I guess as time flew by I found myself within my own group of friends; both local and other foreigners from the AFS family, whom the stereotypical tourists thought were local students. I wasn't a tourist any longer but a bona-fide 'frenchie'. By the end of my year in France, I realized I wasn't still completely "frenchie-fied" as I still managed to keep my Malaysian-ness and my traditional Asian views. My year in France has of course broadened my horizon and I realize what a blessing it is to be able to see the world from my new perspective.

I also found myself discovering new bonds of friendship between myself and many others, whom I'm sure I wouldn't have exactly gotten along with, were I to be in Malaysia. The people that I've met changed me, moulded me into the person that I am today. I would like to think that they've taught me to learn to be more patient with life, and to take things as they come, to obviously....not stress out over the small stuff. My friends in France really are responsible that my year in France was completely magnificent, spectacular, unreal, etc. Each and every one of them has left his / her name etched on my heart. They meant the world to me then, and they still do.

My host family in France was nothing short of lovely. Coming from a very tightly knit family, they treated me as though I was one of their own and during the year in France, I felt nothing less than a real member of the family. They gave me a lot of responsibility; however, they also gave me my freedom. I'm proud to say that I've never changed my host family, and never did I feel the need to do so. Without my host family's patience with me (especially with the French language and cuisine) and their hospitality I doubt if I could have enjoyed my year as much as I did.

School was another challenge. In the beginning, I found myself hating school because I really couldn't cope with the language and the very different way of teaching. Yet again, as time flew by and I began to understand the language, I found I could not dislike it. I found the similarities between the Malaysian and French systems – it was just a different approach. Slowly, my results started to improve from Ds to Bs, which made me feel as though I was on top of the world.

All in all, you could say that I spent an "awesomely-awesome" year in France with AFS, and even now, I know that this year is something that I'll appreciate for the rest of my life. It's my experience, and no one else can have it, unless they were to spend a year abroad as an exchange student. Still, the memories, the thoughts, the moments, they all belong to me and for this, I shall always be grateful to AFS, my parents and my host family and friends in France :)

Julia Elyza Rosedin

Looking Back at Life as an Exchange Student

Going to live in another country on my own was just the kind of adventure I was looking for as a sixteen-year old. I soon realised that travel and life abroad was great generally and always had its ups and downs, but it was never again both as drastic or as ordinary (in the best sense of the word) as it was when I lived in Malaysia as an exchange student in 1997/98.

It is an incredible act of hospitality to invite somebody you have never seen before to live in your house and become part of your family life, not for a week or a month, but for an entire year. It requires a generosity of heart that is special. And so I want begin this article by thanking my host family for their generosity of heart, their patience and the unconditional manner with which they accepted me into their lives.

In the beginning, there were difficulties – the culture was so different. Germany had a liberal agnostic environment and Malaysia was a Muslim country where a young woman leads a protected life! But I soon learnt to adapt and to accept that while very different from my background, this system works for the Malaysians.

I soon savoured in-your-face differences such as learning how to eat properly with my fingers, or listening to ghost stories from people who took them seriously. Embarking on what I considered my first very own adventure, I had braced myself for the extraordinary. But I had been naïve enough to think the challenge would be the tropical climate or dense jungles teeming with unfamiliar life, which Malaysia is blessed with. However I found myself in a largely residential city not far from the capital and a very regulated life. This was just as much the shock of a countryside girl being shipped to the city as a European on her first stay in Southeast Asia. It turned out that the real challenge, some of which was also in retrospect most gratifying, was the ordinary.

Fighting boredom while listening for the sixth hour to lessons in a language so unfamiliar that it was impossible at first to track the beginnings and endings of words merging into a sound that after hours in the hot air of the classroom easily escaped my attention however hard I tried to make sense of it.

The slow learning processes – rules, roles, words, faces – that seemed to blur into a stretch of sitting on chairs, sitting on floors and sitting on sofas trying hard to absorb everything and feeling as if I was waiting for something to happen, a sudden revelation, a tangible task.

Some of my most cherished memories were born out of daily life as well - going to the wet market to buy fish on a Sunday morning and having *roti canai* and *teh tarik* with the whole family on the way back. Hearing my host mother recite the Quran with children from the neighborhood or in the car on a long drive. Talking with my infallibly cheery school friend Sal in front of her house.

All my host sisters were incredibly generous in sharing their rooms and showing me how things were done. Kakak, who helped out in the house, became a good friend. She quickly discovered that I was utterly useless in the kitchen and not to be trusted with food too much, but she would talk to me for hours without minding at all that I did not understand anything, which allowed me to indulge in the reassuring illusion that we were having a conversation. She would also say the names of things when I pointed at them, waiting patiently for me to scribble them down and repeat them many times, this being crucial to my progress in mastering Malay.



I remember Nenek, my fragile host grandmother, who would sometimes with astonishing vigour slap me on my shoulder when I was sitting at my desk and laugh in a way that I always interpreted as a friendly way of saying 'you are strange, but I guess it takes all kinds.' When she once complained about a ghost from her village haunting the corridors upstairs at night, my explanation that I had been wandering around in a pale gown in the search for the bathroom was quickly dismissed as an understandable misapprehension of the problem at hand.



Sharing a shower in the *kampung*

Back in Germany I had been dancing for as long as I could remember, so when I came to Malaysia I was keen to continue dance classes and explore different techniques. It took me months to find places I could go to, but when I did, it was amazing. I briefly danced with a traditional Malay dance group and even performed with them a couple of times. I also at some point joined a ballet class and will never forget Ms Tam's decorated little studio and rigid training regime. But what really made me feel a part of this country, was the Indian dance class I found practicing every Sunday in a temple in another part of Shah Alam. Classical Indian dance, I discovered, was very different in terms of its style of movement, but unlike various folklore dances, it could not just be picked up.

It was a whole world of its own with a long historic trajectory, a demanding technique and a sense of precision of expression second to none. I fell in love with Bharata Natyam and kept seeking out classes in later years in Hamburg and Singapore, keeping this part of my Malaysian experience alive as long as possible.

In school everyone enthusiastically tried to help me fit in and the welcome I received was staggering. I was the only white student, which certainly was a novel experience. There were the uniforms and assemblies and rules that were so much stricter than anything I knew from my German school. The subjects were in part the same, but English was the only one I had some way of following until I had picked up enough Malay to get by in the other lessons. It was the English teacher who challenged me to write an essay in Bahasa Melayu about school in my native land, passionately ignoring my protests that I knew barely fifty words, most of which I used up saying things like 'I cannot speak your language' and 'thank you, I don't think I can eat any more of the delicious food.'

My fellow students were very supportive and patient with their new ignorant classmate, who was so difficult to communicate with. They also made the most of it. I even got elected president of the basketball team without having the slightest understanding of why we were sitting in a room raising our hands, why I had to leave that room for five minutes and return to class to be handed a key.



Going to tap rubber



In a kampung house



In traditional tribal costume

On my very first day at school I had asked a teacher to write a few friendly introductory sentences in Malay on a piece of paper and read it out to the best of my ability from a balcony overlooking the school ground to the whole school. The response was a brief silence followed by roaring laughter, which I took as a good sign. By the time I reached my last day at the school my words were now my own and it was not without a sense of satisfaction that I could give my farewell speech in a language that was no longer foreign to me. Some time between this first and last school assembly, Malaysia became a part of my life. And to this day I am humbled by the experience.

Many of my subsequent choices in life (taking up Southeast Asian studies in University, learning the Thai language, revisiting Malaysia, writing freelance for a magazine on Southeast Asian politics and applying for a broadcasting internship with a foreign correspondent in Singapore) can all be attributed to some degree to my one year stay in Malaysia. What made the experience such an influential time, however, was that being 16-years old I was young enough to take in many of the aspects of a foreign life and making it my own.

When I travel now, for work or pleasure, I have a much clearer idea about the extent to which I am willing to entrench myself in the local culture and what parts of my essentially European identity I will always retain. This does not diminish my affection for Malaysia in any way. My heart still jumps at any news from my former host country and the place will always retain a sense of familiarity that is precious to me.

Rather, after over more than a decade, the intense experience of the exchange year has evolved into something that the late Roger Silverstone called proper distance – something that, in his words, preserved the other through difference as well as through shared identity. So less obviously, but perhaps more importantly, this year continues to influence how I perceive cultural difference wherever I encounter it. And for that experience I am deeply grateful.

*Terima kasih kepada keluarga angkat di Shah Alam,
semua kawan-kawan dari Sekolah Menengah
Seksyen 19 dan kelas tarian saya di Shah Alam dan
Subang Jaya. Semoga berjumpa lagi lah!*

Nina Bigalke



A Malaysian Culinary Adventure

Going to Malaysia as an AFS student in 1993 gave me the opportunity to realise that there was more to this world than what I experienced in my small New Zealand town. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be given the opportunity to go to Malaysia in that it gave me a real multicultural experience as Malaysia has an extremely diverse people and cultures. Added to this I was able to meet people from all around the world with whom I remain in touch till now.



I found Malaysia amazing in many ways - from its beautiful natural scenery, large lush green oil palm plantations to its thriving cities which were very nicely balanced out by the quiet kampong (village) areas and then there is the fabulous food. While there I learnt to eat rice and soon realised that a knife and fork are useless utensils when eating this staple. I quickly had to become a convert to the use of eating with my fingers (of the right hand, of course). Then there were dishes such as *Satay* (a must for everyone), Curry and of course the great range of fruit like *nanas* (pineapple), *pisang* (bananas) of all different sizes and uses, mmm...*pisang goreng* (banana fritters) my favourite, rambutan, durian and *mata kucing* (cat's eyes). The bonus - the best Chinese food in the world (sure beats Taiwanese Chinese food hands down), *teh tarik* and *Roti Canai* made in an acrobatic motion by an Indian Muslim shop cook.

I found the people very friendly and helpful though sometimes it could be a little frustrating especially when asking for directions. With Malaysians, there is always someone willing to talk to you about their culture and always with a beautiful smile. While a student I was able to go to Malay, Chinese and Indian cultural events; these were really interesting and it was exciting to be inside of these different worlds.

However there is one frustrating thing about Malaysia, that I think most AFSers would experience, and that is choosing the place they like the best. My reasoning for this is that every new place I went to I would say "Wow! This is great. This is the best place in Malaysia". However, sooner or later I would be saying exactly the same thing about another place. Malaysia is full of such "WOW" moments and places!!!



This gap year in Malaysia made me decide to attend university. I realised there was a great big cultural world out there that has a lot to teach me.

I returned to Malaysia in 1998 for a month's holiday and then, in 2001 introduced this country to my mother, who still talks about it and says it is the best holiday that she has ever had. In 2003 I also worked in the AFS office, KL as a hosting co-ordinator. So possibly I am a bit biased but for a student exchange program I would recommend Malaysia as the best destination and the hands down winner. Your students' lives will never be the same again.

Samuel McCosh

And That Has Made All The Difference

***"..... I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."***

***From 'The Road Not Taken'
by Robert Frost***



Back in 2004 when I applied in Germany for the AFS student exchange program I was primarily driven by curiosity and the alluring prospect of adventure. Honestly, I had no idea what lay ahead or that it would change my life so profoundly. I was merely 15 when I came to Malaysia for the first time, and stepped into a different world - a melting pot of cultures, traditions and religions. It overwhelmed me and perhaps because I was so young, the impact was really intense. I soaked up the local culture just like a blank sheet absorbs ink. And this experience has definitely shaped me into the person I am today.

My AFS year made all the difference because I matured sooner than if I had stayed at home. It is a chapter of my life that I look back on, with feelings of joy and gratitude, but also with grief and sadness. My various experiences, both good and bad, taught me most of the essential lessons on life. And that is exactly why I wouldn't have missed any of it.

All in all, my year as an AFS student in Malaysia was fulfilling and abundant in experiences. It turned me into a traveler, a crosser of boundaries and into a courageous young woman with open eyes and an open heart. I learned about myself at least as much as I learned about Malaysians and I made lots of friends not just from Malaysia but from all over the globe. This makes me feel more closely connected to this world and its breathtaking beauty of diversity.



If I were asked what the essence of AFS experiences is, my answer would be - AFS is all about stories! Your story, other people's stories and sharing them all together. Every single one is different, unique and touching in its own way but they are all just so human and very worth the telling.

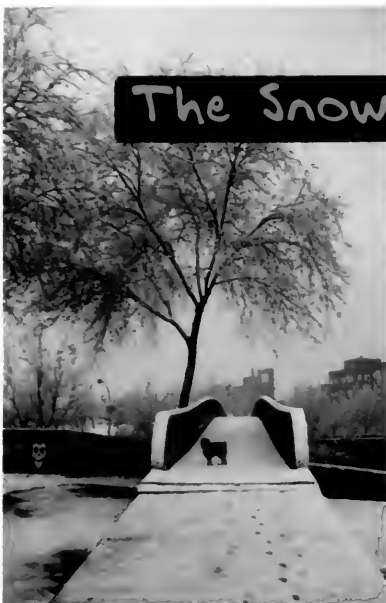
Although I am only 20 now, I feel I have already come a long way. Since my AFS year in Malaysia, my life has been full of precious moments and events of significance which have meant a lot to me and to the people I have had the pleasure of interacting with. I am proud to say I have been able to leave many footprints in other people's lives, as they have in mine. This would not have happened if I had missed the opportunity of the AFS year - and I wouldn't be the same person writing these lines right now.

AFS gave me the strong belief that we are able to change this world into a better place if we hold on strongly to the values of humanity, tolerance and mutual understanding. It has also given me the opportunity to lead an exciting and meaningful life. I do not know what the future holds but I am very positive that my AFS year has prepared me well for whatever lies ahead.

The road I took, it has made all the difference and to everyone whose path I have crossed so far: Thank you very much for being a part of my journey!

Katherine Rupert





The Snow in Spain

“And in the end,
it's not the years in your life that count.
It's the life in your years.”

I have oft been reminded of this Abraham Lincoln quote during my many experiences with AFS – it began with a couple of days' effort to research and apply for AFS, then the weeks I spent as an exchange student in Spain, then the months and years I spent as an AFS volunteer – seeing different faces and places.... from KL to Ipoh to Redang to Malacca to Hong Kong have really changed me. A lot has happened during these events – whether happy, sad, furious, crazy, funny, tired, nonsensical, frustrating or blissful moments..... they never grow old!

I still remember

- The morning when our flight landed in Madrid, Spain as if it were yesterday. Twelve other Malaysians and I were visibly worried that we had landed in an airport where all signboards were in a language that none of us understood. But once we met our host families, we were made to feel right at home.
- My Aita (Basque for father) turning Kuala Lumpur into “Kululupor”.
- Trying to explain why I am an ethnic Chinese but not from China.
- All the students rushing out of class when **it snowed in Bilbao for the first time in 15 years.** Although I felt I was breaking school rules, I too joined in the fun.

Ahh.....memories.....what would we be without them!!

Nothing in life is easy and being a little more thick-skinned often serves its purpose. I spoke the worst Spanish whilst on exchange – thanks to my pocket dictionary and with the help of others, I slowly managed to improve. Being away from home has also taught me to appreciate Malaysia a lot more – its multicultural background, weather, history, food, beauty, etc. After all, being abroad does not mean everything has to be about other cultures and way of life.

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to meet new people, many of whom have since become my very close friends. Being with people from other countries has allowed me to not only understand different cultures better, but also allowed me to appreciate everyone as unique individuals regardless of their backgrounds. I have also seen others grow along with me... how we used to be quiet and shy, but now have evolved into independent and liberal thinking individuals.

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.”
- Saint Augustine. By giving me the golden ticket to see the world, AFS has offered me more than just an intercultural exchange experience. It has definitely changed my life.

Muchas gracias por todo AFS! (Thank you very much for everything AFS!)

Joice Lim



Fortnight in Japan

It doesn't matter where you go. What matters is how you live the experience. The Land of The Rising Sun certainly has a lot to offer. However, one complaint would be that two weeks in this deeply cultural country was not enough. I am very grateful to AFS and the Japanese Government for allowing so many of us to practically tour the country and even live with some of the most kind hearted people I have ever met, my dear host family, all at absolutely no cost.



The best part of the entire journey was the multitude of situations that I had to cope with such as having to be able to speak of my country upon request, starting a conversation with complete strangers countless times, and fending for myself as I travelled across hundreds of miles with my group of AFS friends who by the way were also from various corners of the world. They included students from Australia, Philippines, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand and many others. I have to admit that those of us chosen to go on the Jenesys program in 2007 were a lucky bunch indeed.

Being the centre of attraction at school was quite an experience. I suppose I was likened to the latest gadget at an IT fair. It really was fun to breeze through English lessons helping the Japanese students to learn the language. I'm proud to say that our standard of English in Malaysia is higher than it is over there. This of course made conversations very interesting. I felt as one of them as I uttered the newly learnt Japanese phrases trying to make sense of what I thought and felt. Once again as an AFS student we really needed to be brave and try to communicate the best we could to ensure we had a comfortable time and a good learning experience.

Of course, school wouldn't have been as much fun without a wonderful family to go home to. Both my okaasan (mother) and otosan (father) as well as my host brother and sister were very hospitable. They treated me as one of them. I enjoyed having dinner with them and even visiting a nearby mall which was owned by Jusco. My host brother in particular was very kind to me; he had offered to give me his room for the few days I was there. We even went cycling to a nearby lake and the late autumn view was spectacular.

Most of my two week period in Japan was spent touring the country. Some of the major cities we visited were Hiroshima, Nagoya, and Tokyo. I had the opportunity to see how Japan was so diverse where at one end it would be brimming with Technological Advancements and at the other there would be sites like temples that have been witnesses to generations of Japanese. What made it all the more enjoyable was the interstate flights, train rides and bus rides we took as we travelled all over the place. This was when I really got to know the people I was travelling with. There were only a handful of Malaysians as all of us had been divided in such a way to ensure we would mingle with people from other countries. They came from all walks of life and the amazing thing was we were all awed by the places and people.

So simply put, the AFS experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and which will be cherished forever. What I experienced In Japan albeit only for two weeks was without a doubt an eye-opening and irreplaceable experience.

Avinash Nair





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KODAK ET 160 5077

photo













My Different View (an award winning essay)

The physical journey that I traverse is a journey of the soul

These words swam through my mind over and over again, as I tried to fathom what it meant. I looked out of the window. The darkness of night stared back at me, full of its mysteries. Elusive stars twinkled, so near, yet so far. In my hand lay the piece of paper with the verse, which was given to me by my sister with specific instructions to open only on my way home from my exchange program to Italy.

I reflected on the last two months. The people: Paolo, Marina, Chiara, and Francesco, the people I've begun to call family. Their relatives, family friends, my friends from school, my teachers, Chiara's friends, all who have opened up their hearts and accepted me for who I am, a Chinese girl from a little "kampung".

*I have brought myself home,
Seasoned by confidence,
Broadened by land and languages,
I'm no longer afraid of the oceans,
Or the differences between people.*

I've always felt that they are better than us. They are refined, they are modern, they have advanced technology, and they are glamorous. They are everything we were not. From the newspapers, books, articles in the magazines, it is there. That the Westerners are better than us. I open the magazines and there it is: advertisements for models with Pan-Asian looks. Rich families send their children overseas to study; sick people go overseas for their treatment. I seriously thought that I'll always lose to them, and before leaving for Italy, I constantly worried whether I'll be laughed at, whether I'll fit in. I now realize how silly I was.

My host family, the Guirris helped change my view towards the world. They taught me that there was no such thing as "I'm better than you" or "you're better than me." Instead, they showed that despite our differences, we are all the same. We are God's creation, human beings with emotions. While with them, I did not feel inferior. Through spending time with each other, I began to realize that they weren't that different after all! We shared jokes and laughter; we talked, had fun, and went to places together. The feelings of warmth, companionship, acceptance-- are these not the feelings that all human beings crave?

In school, teachers and classmates alike showed a genuine interest in my life, my country, and me. The amazement on their faces when I told them about Malaysia, a multiracial country where Malays, Chinese, and Indians live together in peace made me realize how proud I should be. Though most have not heard of Malaysia, they've heard of the Petronas Twin Towers, the Sepang F1 circuit, and Michelle Yeoh too! They were curious to know why I not only speak Chinese and Malay, but English too. They were very friendly, eager to know more, and at the same time, willing to share their language, their cuisine (it was a school with a hotel management program, where we prepared meals and had them. Ah, now I know where the extra kilos came from) and let me be part of their lives. They made me see it was I who have been comparing all along, which is better, and as a result feeling inadequate.

One might say that it is only because I'm an exchange student, a novelty, that I get this special treatment. A trip with Chiara, my host sister, and the Scouts, proved otherwise. A day after Christmas, we went to Torino, not as tourists, but to help in a soup kitchen run by nuns. These nuns gave out meals, wrapped presents, sorted out and distributed the clothes donated. What struck me most was that of the recipients of their labours, only 10% were Italians, and about 90% were immigrants. These immigrants are often blamed for crimes and yet they (the nuns), helped selflessly, without taking into account skin colour or nationality. To them, people are people. They are the same, struggling to make a living in this world.

My experiences made me look at myself, my whole life in a new light. I've realised, everyone is unique, special, and we should celebrate our differences. These differences make our world exciting, every place an eye opener. Our different cultures, skin colours, should not be constantly compared, but appreciated and embraced, for we are after all, the same-- human beings, who love and hurt as easily as the next person. We stand together, as brothers and sisters of the world, united, each special in his or her own way. I gazed out of the window again, where streaks of sunlight were now breaking through, spreading its warm rays, chasing away the last vestiges of darkness.

I have found myself

Ho Chui Ping

**Verses in Italics sourced from Muhammad Haji Salleh's poem, si tenggang's homecoming*

Life is Beautiful

My name is Hosszu Ferenc Ali Hasszan. I would like to share my AFS story.

I am originally from Eger, Hungary where my parents were both teachers who enjoyed travelling so we spent holidays in Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia. My parents divorced when I was 13 and I continued to live with my mother. As a single parent she could not afford to indulge anymore in our love of travelling.



However by chance, my mother came across the AFS magazine "Fules" and noticed an advertisement for a full one year scholarship to Malaysia. There were about 270 applicants for the one slot and I was extremely happy to be the one selected. I was the first Hungarian AFS student to have the Malaysian experience.

I landed in Kuala Lumpur in 2001, and attended an orientation camp where we were briefed on our new country, the culture and basic Do's and Don'ts. A week later I went to live in Kangar, a small town in the north of the country where my host family lived.

Although my father could communicate in English, he preferred to speak in the local Malay language. My 4 year old sister and the maid could speak only in Malay, so I was forced to quickly pick it up if I wanted to be able to communicate with the others at home.

School was also a challenge in the beginning. It was not only the language that I found difficult but also the rigid discipline that I was not used to. However, after a few run-ins with the Discipline Master at school, I was soon able to overcome these initial hiccups and began to enjoy the Malay way of life. Life here was very different to what I have been used to – people were more relaxed, more genuine and I was honored to be a privileged guest who was made to feel like one in the family. My language skills improved as did my understanding and appreciation of the Malay and Muslim way of life.

At the end of my AFS year, I returned to Hungary for a short while. The same year, my application to the International Affairs Management Course at University in Kuala Lumpur was accepted and I returned to Malaysia to do this course – completely conducted in Malay!

What can I say about my experience? My one year in Malaysia has changed my whole outlook on life. As the song goes, TO KNOW MALAYSIA, IS TO LOVE MALAYSIA! When I married my wife in Hungary in 2008, we decided to move to Malaysia. We are now both practising Muslims, living a dream life in Malaysia where I am employed and working towards my PhD. I will be a father in a few months and **Life Is Beautiful!**

Thank you to all the people who have helped to make me who I am today and to AFS for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Hosszu Ferenc Ali Hasszan



Hopeless @ Keeping in Touch

Harald Johnsen from Sandefjord, Norway & I were very good friends back in Wanganui, New Zealand in 1992 where we both spent our AFS year. Our friendship was deepened by Kickboxing & Taekwondo, 2 martial arts which we both enjoyed. When we returned to our respective home countries in 1993 we lost touch with each other. However, in May 2007, as I was filtering spam in my hotmail account, I saw an email from haraldator@gmail.com.

From: Harald Johnsen
To: Shazalyna
Date: Fri, 4 May 2007 13:48:03 +0200

I'm not sure who's getting this, but I have a feeling it's the right person.
Shazalyna Mohammad, Wanganui 1992, possibly living in Shah Alam / Selangor (I'm working from memory here...)? This is Harald from Norway, the idiot who never kept in touch. Just wanted to hear how you were doing. If this reaches the wrong person then I'm sorry...

Regards,
Harald Johnsen

From: Shazalyna
To: Harald Johnsen
Date: Fri, Jun 8, 2007 at 11:19 PM

Harald!
Hey, how are ya?????????????????????
How did you get my email address?
Yes, I am one of the co-idiot from Wanganui as well!!!!!!
My reliable email is: shazalyna@gmail.com. Email me at this add, if we're online at the same time, we can chat..... what have u been up to?

Shazalyna Mohammad
Shah Alam, Selangor

From: Harald Johnsen
To: Shazalyna
Date: Mon, Jun 11, 2007 at 10:29 PM

Lyna !

Wow! You have no idea how happy I was to get a reply from you. This is really amazing. I am absolutely hopeless at keeping in touch with people; but I've always wondered how you were doing and what you were up to. Tragically, I've even been to Malaysia without seeing you - but I LOVE it (Malaysia has become one of my favourite countries) and I'm planning to go back soon (in December, probably) and hang out in KL (among other places) like I've done a few times before, and then it would be terrific to catch up with you. Of course, it's a shame that I haven't managed to do so before.

So what's happening with you? Are you a tv-star? :) Are you married with a big family? Are you still doing Taekwondo? How do you spend your days? What else is new? I'm really keen to know.

As for me, I'm sitting in my new office in Oslo on my FIRST DAY at work at a new firm. I just got this job as an investment advisor for FMG Finans, a sub-company of Fund Management Group, which is a Bermuda based hedge fund company. I'm quite excited about my job, and I think this is going to be really good. I'm not going to try and sum up the fourteen or fifteen years that's gone by since I last saw you, but I've done a few interesting things: I lived in Australia for three years, have traveled heaps in Asia (Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore...), a fair bit in South America (mostly Brazil - I love it) and some other places too. I've never been back to NZ, unfortunately. I've been single for the last year or so, and have no kids. Ehm, yeah, that's about it. ;)

Now, PLEASE, get back to me soon, I am REALLY eager to hear how you're doing and what you've been up to!

Lots of hugs,
Harald

From: Shazalya
 To: Harald Johnsen
 Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2007 at 12:54 PM

Mr. Harald Johnsen!!!!!!!!!!!!

How could you be in Malaysia without looking me up.....!

My news..... I am single and not married (happily, as some of my friends are in the midst of divorcing each other), a lawyer for 6 1/2 years but decided to quit action in court to join the Corporate World. Since 2006 I have been employed with Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia as a Legal Advisor. I am based in the Bank Building which is about 3 minutes walk to the Petronas Twin Towers.

Been back to New Zealand twice. I travel a lot to Bali, Thailand, a few countries for AFS (I am the Secretary of AFS Malaysia for the past 6-7 years). Yes, pretty much an AFS supporter here. Check me out in AFS Malaysia website.

Many of us are hopeless in keeping in touch - I am no exception. Holly did email me for a while 7-8 years ago, then the email stopped..... no idea what the rest are doing.... of course I badly miss everyone..... it is official, we are hopeless at keeping in touch.

..... I am off to Perhentian Island in Terengganu this Thursday for my mid year annual vacation I love the Islands,..
 ... I will email you once I'm back next week. Of course if you come to Malaysia in December I will be right here waiting for you.

OK gtg,.... tell me more about yourself.....!!!!!!!

Tragic & Luv,
 Lyna

P/S: congrats on the new job.

From: Harald Johnsen
 To: Shazalya
 Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2007 at 7:52 PM

Hi again there, SuperLyna!!!!

Wow!, you're doing real well. Actually, I'm not surprised. I never expected any less from you.

Hey, like I said, I'm sorry I haven't kept in touch or tried to look for you earlier. I have thought of you often and wondered how you were doing.....but thought you were in Shah Alam and not KL.

And if it's a compliment of any kind, let me tell you that you're the first person from New Zealand (except for a couple of Norwegians with whom I've lived for four years) that I actually tried getting in contact with.

Yeah, the new job is going well, thanks. It's a lot of fun. I'm working right in the heart of Norway's financial center, and it's nice to be in this kind of atmosphere when you want to work hard and do well.

I'm pretty impressed by what you're doing, though. A lawyer for six and a half years already - and THAT'S a cool district you are working in. And we're almost in the same industry - I do of course work with banks all the time. Anyway, I love the Petronas Twin Towers; they are probably my favourite buildings in the world. And the whole area is cool too; I've hung out a fair bit around there and Bukit Bintang. And I used to go to the food court in the basement of Lot 10 every day and buy the coconut curry laksa there; it used to be really good and was only like 6.95 ringgit for a bowl. It's not QUITE as good anymore (new people working there), but I still went there and had it a few times the last time I was KL. And Planet Hollywood which is right down the street from that shopping center is a good, albeit expensive, place where I've had a few good times.

And let me tell you this, if I didn't already: If it had not been for me being offered this job I would have been in KL from September - working and living. I've actually looked at apartments for rent there, and I had my own tiny company which allowed me to work pretty much anywhere with a phone line and good internet connection. You have no idea how many places I've looked at for rent in KL; I practically know the whole town now! ;)

So yes, I really like KL and now I have even more of an incentive to go there because I would love to catch up with you and see how you are doing and everything. I'm going to look for plane tickets for December soon, and let you know the date when I will be there. PLEASE be in town!!!!!!!! =)

Ok...further updates!.... I kept boxing for a few years, and even made it to Los Angeles where I was fortunate to train at the somewhat famous Wild Card gym with among others, world champion James Toney. And Freddie Roach, who owns the gym and was a really cool guy; he has even trained Mike Tyson - so me and Mike have had the same trainer - believe it or not. It's a little funny, but good to look back on.

I've quit boxing for good now though, my hands were getting ruined and that was it. I'm glad I got out in time; at least I can still talk okay! :) I also did MMA for a while, and was lucky to train with some really good guys in that sport too. It was fun, but now I'm done with all of it and just trying to get in shape training weights and running a bit. I weigh about 100 kilos now (from the 70kg in Wanganui), and want to get back to about 90 which is a pretty good weight for me.

I hope you have a good time in the islands. The only Malaysian island I've been to is Penang, unfortunately. I had a good time there. I will surely visit more of them later; my brother just went to Langkawi and was stunned by how beautiful and nice it is.

The more I write the sadder I feel that I've been stupid enough to not get in touch with you when I was in Malaysia. I'm an idiot of highest order, but hoping to improve. We MUST meet in December / January (I'll probably stay in Malaysia for a few weeks), and of course I would like nothing better than to see you here in Norway sometime too. Of course you'll have a place to stay here for free and all the food you can eat, so you need have no worries on this score! You'd be the guest of honor. (let me just get an apartment first; right now I'm staying with a friend while house-hunting - and apartments in this town are so expensive...)

Anyway, please tell me more about yourself, I want to know EVERYTHING!!! :) It's been a long time and it's really cool to have gotten in touch with you finally.

Most of all I'm really happy to hear that you're doing so well. That's truly good to hear.

Take care, write me back ASAP, and have a great time in the islands!!!!!!!!!!

Lots of Luv & Big Crushing Hugs,
Harald

P/S: I am looking for you on the AFS Malaysia website, haven't found you yet but I'm trying!

*From: Shazalya
To: Harald Johnsen
Date : Fri, Jun 29, 2007 at 5:11 PM*

Dear Harald.....

Please do not apologise for not keeping in touch...I must take some blame for it...I cannot believe that you have been several times to KL and to the Lot 10 food court (I eat there with my colleagues too!) and hung out at Bukit Bintang...(a place close to where I work too!) I think maybe once or twice we might even have passed each other...if you have been to Merdeka Square... where the KL courts are... I am there almost everyday... and everytime I see tourists walking and taking photos... I have often wondered if some of them were people I have met overseas... Creepy isn't it.....As if we are acting in a long creepy silent movie.

*From: Harald Johnsen
To: Shazalya
Date : Wed, Jul 25, 2007 at 5:26 AM*

Hi there Lyna !

This email is a mess because I started writing it three times and been interrupted every time; saved it to continue later and bla bla bla.... It's ended up being a mess, please have patience...

Things are pretty busy here at the moment, workdays are pretty long and I have just moved to a new place. For over a month I got by with just three or four hours of sleep and started to REALLY feel it after a while. Now I've settled down here in my new apartment, which means no more commuting, i.e. good sleep. I am starting to feel a little healthier. :)

Anyway, thanks again for your email. It's so good to hear from you and hear about your life. You know, I HAVE been wondering what you were up to all these years even though it did take me a long time to get in touch with you. So catching up on some Shazalya news is really good. Please tell me more, tell me more.....



Talk about remembering things. That year in New Zealand was a very special one, and it certainly had - in several ways - a major impact on my life. It's funny how little things, half-accidents and seeming coincidences can ultimately affect your life in a major way.

When I was sixteen I broke my thumb while sparring at my town's boxing gym. I couldn't box for a while, so I started Nanbudo, a softer and somewhat boring form of Karate. At one of these sessions I had a chance encounter with an AFS returnee who introduced me to AFS. Till then I had not known of the possibility of spending a year as an exchange-student in the US. I applied to AFS, got accepted, and also received a scholarship that paid for pretty much all of expenses except pocket money. I was all set to go to USA in August 1992 but jumped at the chance of New Zealand 6 months earlier in January 1992.

It was pretty much the best thing I've ever done - both because New Zealand was so good in so many ways, and because it started so many other things. Indirectly, it made me go to Brazil a few years later, then to Australia to study (I went together with two people from Norway that I got to know while in New Zealand) - which again set off a marvellous South East Asian adventure.

All this have shaped me and made me who I am today. So many things would not have happened if I had not broken my thumb!

Many of my friends still live in the same town, were married ages ago and living pretty grey lives. Of course, I am not judging them or saying what they're doing is wrong, but I'm just glad it's not me.

And from that year I have so many good memories, and you are certainly part of many of them. I remember watching Eddie Murphy's RAW together with you at your place, rolling on the floor laughing so hard that it was just sick. That was a good night. And the get-togethers with the other guys, Godo, Chinatsu, Bird and Holly, and of course the AFS camps. That was all really cool stuff. Do you remember when we went to that martial arts show in Wanganui, by the way? It's a long time ago, but I can actually remember where we sat, and that we met a friend of mine from school whose name was Alex, who actually asked about you when I saw him again. (Perhaps I should have told you earlier.... I'm sorry, hahaha). .

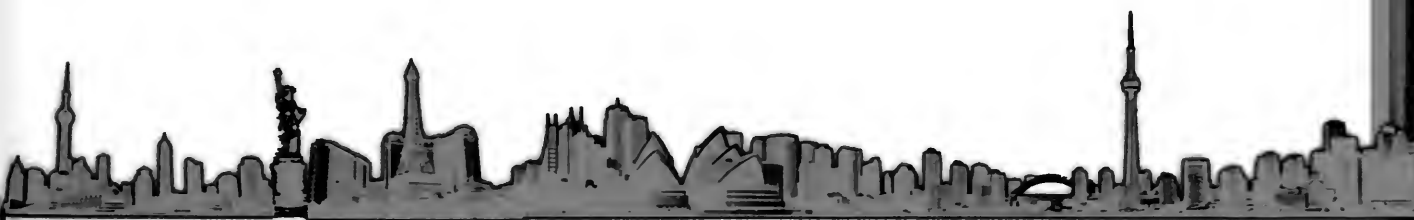


However, I still have all the memories, however distorted or dim some of them may have become over the years. But I am pretty sure that if I had seen you in Kuala Lumpur I would have recognised you. I have a fair idea of what you must look like (AND NOW I'VE EVEN SEEN YOU IN YOUR FACEBOOK PIC!!!! :) . And you look really good too! :) Then again, who knows... Maybe we did see each other one day, without knowing who we saw..... STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.

Miss you,
Harald

"Harald and I did not catch up as planned in December 2007. We are still trying to find a good time to meet up though either in Norway or in Kuala Lumpur. At least now if we have not heard from each other for a while, I make it a point to poke him in Facebook"

Shazalyna



The Sound of Silence

My opportunity to go abroad as an exchange student under the AFS program has improved my life in so many ways. I first heard of the AFS program for the deaf when I was fourteen; my parents hosted three deaf students from Gallaudet University, the only University in the world that caters only for the Deaf. I became very involved in the deaf community in pursuit of my dream of one day going to USA.

My activities among the deaf community yielded so much of interesting information that I could not wait for the opportunity of visiting USA where the rights of the deaf have been so clearly spelt out.



When AFS wrote to tell me that I would be enrolled in the Indiana School for the deaf, my excitement and joy knew no bounds. I knew I would meet others in the same predicament as me – unlike in Malaysia where I was always the “odd one out”. Imagine my awe when I found not only deaf classmates, but DEAF Teachers, DEAF office staff, DEAF Artist, DEAF Doctor, DEAF Actor and DEAF Actress who took the Drama classes. Can you imagine being surrounded by people in every profession – all of whom were in the same situation as I. I now fit in – was definitely not the odd one out.

This blew my mind and opened up my world – there is nothing that I could not aspire to, nothing that was denied to me because of my disability BECAUSE OTHER TRAIL BLAZERS HAD WALKED AHEAD OF ME!

Suddenly the world had so much to offer me!

At school in Malaysia, my activities were limited. I could not really join in many activities where I would be a liability to the rest of the team or class. In Indiana however, I was encouraged to take part in several activities like:

- **Drama class** – being deaf was not a handicap: deaf people have very good facial expressions as this was paramount to communication. Our teacher Droug Bakey was simply amazing – he taught me so much.
- **Film production class.** I even produced a short silent horror movie in sign language that won an award! Could I have done this in Malaysia?
- **Mobility International USA Workshop** where I soaked in important information like the rights of the disabled. *We in Malaysia have a lot to learn before we can really call ourselves a caring society.*
- **Videophone system.** This helps the deaf to communicate. All we have to do is dial the number and the interpreter appears on the screen. We converse in Sign language and she passes on the message to anyone I want to speak with. This released me from the dependency on my friends who were not hearing impaired. I could call for take-out, order a DVD from the neighborhood DVD outlet. *I found my independence in Indiana!*

My host parents are the kindest and most understanding people I have met. They are not hearing impaired but they clearly understood the needs of the deaf. My father would sit with me when I watch Television and make sure I could follow the story by turning on the captions and sub-titles on screen. He could also sign (elementary level only though) when necessary but most of the time we communicated with pen and paper.

They ensured I had halal food; not only that, my host Mother was a Malaysian so she also cooked Malaysian dishes for me so I did miss the food from home too much.

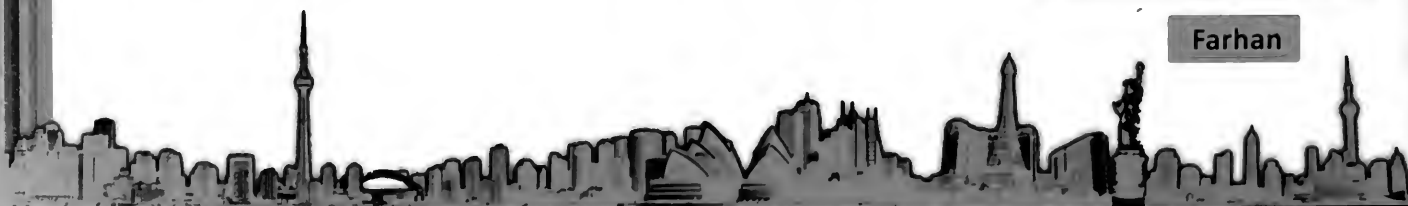
My stay in America has made me strong, confident and independent. It has also taught me that I have a responsibility to teach others in Malaysia who are hearing impaired and inform them that there is a world of opportunities out there. I have to work toward ensuring that the deaf in Malaysia know their rights and are treated fairly.

I owe a big debt to my host family in Indiana who loved me unconditionally and taught me so much despite my handicap. To the friends I made – thank you for being my friends: I will never forget you.

Finally *Ribuan Terima Kasih* to AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia for opening up my world!.



Farhan



ENTERING
ATHOL
POP. 676

It's Something Unpredictable
but in the End it's Right



Listening to "Time of Your Life" by Greenday never fails to make me think of the United States of America. I can go through all my photos again and again and the memories just keep flooding back. All of them, even the littlest things which I never thought would mean so much to me like sitting on the couch with my host brother while watching Spongebob have left an indelible mark in my mind. I was hosted in a small town called Athol in Massachusetts and when I say "small town" - I mean it is so small, there is no public transportation. For me - this was a huge difference. The six months that I lived in America, living like an American kid, leading an American way of life and at the same time teaching them my culture, I knew I had taken a big step that was going to change my outlook on life forever.

I still remember having mixed feelings when I said goodbye to my family at the airport. I was rather scared as I would not be seeing my family for a while but at the same time, I was overwhelmed by the feeling of excitement as I left the departure hall with 39 other students from all over Malaysia. I knew this was my once-in-a-lifetime experience. We were in D.C. for a three day orientation and then we were sent off to our respective states. When I stepped out of the airplane I experienced a sense of loneliness - the kind where you feel lost, not knowing any other person, and wondering what's going to happen next. The -16 degree weather only helped to make me more nervous! Yes, it was scary. Just thinking of the fact that I was already a thousand miles away from familiar faces and having to bond with complete strangers was definitely a brand new start. True enough, the following days in Athol proved that I was indeed right.

Looking back six months later, somehow I see an almost different individual - in a good way though. Some friends who noticed my changes told me "you'll come around" and I told them no, I won't. I'm happy with who I am right now. Living in the States for half a year taught me the meaning of true independence and that the world does not revolve just around me. I've made friends with people from all over the world. I now realize what Mahadzir Lokman meant when he said "Now, whenever you see the map, you see people's names and no longer the name of the countries". Gradually, I fell deep in love with everything, my host family, my friends in high school, teachers, the learning experience and being in America at the age of 18. I am really blessed to have this chance to see the world at a very young age.

If I could list down how the Americans live, what they wear, what their education system or rules are like, I would; but that would just be another boring/random/interesting maybe list that people might or might not read. In order for my great little story to come alive, you actually have to experience it yourself. I had bad days, of course. Who doesn't? But going through those days made me a stronger girl on the inside and I believe sadness can be replaced with something beautiful. Though I've left the States for almost two months now, I still feel like I just had my last meal with my host family last night. Saying goodbye is never easy. At least not for me. This just proves how much a little experience of being an exchange student actually means a lot to me. I may not have an American accent but I sure did have the time of my life there.

In conclusion, I have gained a priceless experience during my six months exchange to the USA. It was indeed a wise move for me to embrace the once in a lifetime chance. I am deeply appreciative that going on an intercultural exchange is without doubt very enriching, with real life learning experience that you cannot just know by referring to the Internet. I have learnt to be more independent without the presence of my parents. I have also learnt how to adapt into a whole new environment. The exchange was also seen as a journey of self-discovery where you learn from mistakes and discover new doors of opportunity. I also remember with gratitude, the best memories and friendship built among people I have met during the exchange. I'm so thankful to have a supportive family and friends; I am also thankful to the AFS-YES for believing I could do this and giving me the opportunity to do so.

Janina Ramli



GOETHE-INSTITUT

This is who we are

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institution.

The Goethe-Institut promotes the study of German language abroad and encourages international cultural exchange. We also foster knowledge about Germany by providing information on its culture, society and education.

With our network of 149 Goethe-Institutes and 10 Liason Offices in 91 countries we provide information on the culture, language and other general aspects of Germany and we have been playing a central role in the cultural and educational policies of Germany for over 50 years.

This is what we do

The Malaysian branch of the Goethe-Institut was founded in 1961.

We organize and promote a wide range of cultural and educational activities:

- German language courses
- concert performances and master classes
- dance performances, training and production workshops
- theatre productions
- exhibitions of fine arts and photography
- radio and television production training
- experimental, documentary and feature films
- teacher training courses

We have a resource centre, which contains books, reference materials, periodicals, audio cassettes, slides, CDs, Videos and DVDs on various aspects of German life and culture

AFS is one of our Malaysian Educational Partners

We are immensely proud of our cooperation with the AFS Malaysia. Did you know that 15% of all foreign exchange students in Malaysian High Schools come from Germany; and that 30% of all schools with a German Language Program are supported by a residential 'Weltwaerts' (= world-bound or worldly or cosmopolitan) assistant from Germany. There is no better way to represent Germany in Malaysian education than through real people, through native speakers, exchange students and teaching assistants who study or work and reside in Malaysia. And the positive experience is mutual: "I have learnt lots about Malaysian culture. I have gained quite a different world-view and my perspective in dealing with everyday problems has thoroughly changed," says Benjamin Gerks, the Weltwaerts assistant who lives and works at SMS Sultan Hj Ahmad Shah in Kuantan.

The Malaysian students of German language improve their world-experience when the German students 'weltwaerts' assistants bring a taste of the German world to their schools. Malaysian students and teachers feel much more at home in the use of the German language. 'Goethe' is very grateful to AFS Malaysia and admires their idealism, friendly support and excellent network service! Just look at the pictures and you will understand...



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Host

Families

Share





My American Sister

My parents surprised us early in 1971 by hosting an American student. They have always thought it is a good thing to know about other cultures, so an exchange program was a good start.

When I heard that we were to host Lauren Hesse from California, I was beside myself with excitement! California meant Hollywood; maybe she knew some stars!

The excitement soon dampened. My mother had informed my school that we were hosting Lauren and requested that she attend classes at the school. Their first response was a resounding 'No' because they had 'nothing to offer her'. I was so disappointed that I burst into tears. But my mother is nothing if not a determined person. Somehow she persuaded my school that it would be alright for Lauren to attend classes for only a few hours a week. She would also attend other schools in the area to get to know other young Malaysians.

Lauren arrived on the very day that a favourite uncle of mine succumbed to cancer. So Lauren's first cultural experience in Malaysia was a funeral. It must have been hot and boring for her.

Luckily her other experiences were happier. She was older than I so she was in a different class at school. But she made friends easily and once put up a sketch (along with another AFSer) about what it was like to be an American girl in the small town of Alor Setar, often being stared and pointed at. Certainly she gave our neighbours plenty to talk about, especially the time she ran into the garden to dance under the coconut trees in the rain.

For me, the experience was exciting as well. We shared a bedroom so we spent a lot of time talking. As the eldest child, I didn't have a confidante until she came so that was a major bonus for me. She taught me that I could have my own ideas. Until then I had always accepted everything my parents told or did for me. It had never occurred to me, for instance, to decorate my own room. When Lauren suggested we paint my cupboard, we bought sandpaper and sketched out what we wanted to paint on the cupboard. As it turned out, just sandpapering the large wooden doors was so arduous that we gave up fairly soon.

Cultural differences there certainly were. But generally we got on well, as did our families. My parents became very good friends with her parents and in 1993 I spent three months with her family in California. I became friends also with her four sisters and brother, especially Leslie who was exactly my age. I learnt a lot about a different way of life, which prepared me for my later years abroad.

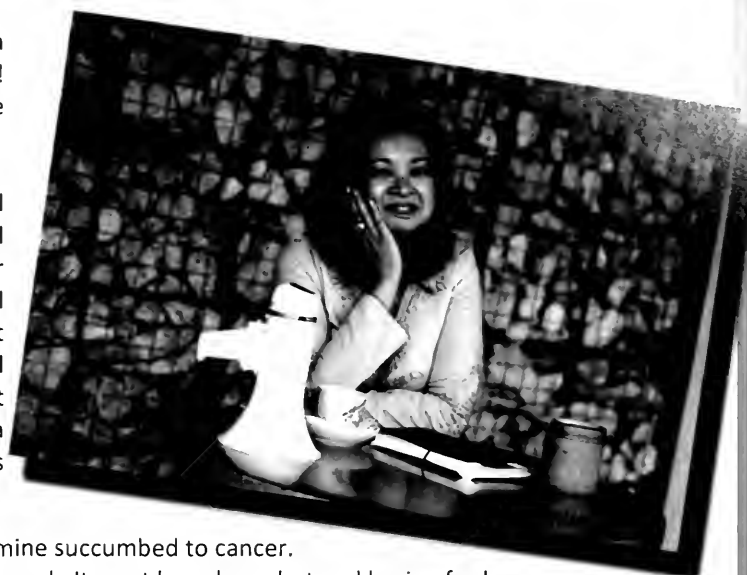
Our families have remained friends even though the senior Hesses have now passed away. Lauren and her sisters stay in touch very regularly and we have visited one another over the years. We even helped Lauren adopt a Malaysian girl, Lalitha. This year I had the opportunity to meet one of Leslie's twin daughters Marie when she visited KL on a college trip. She happens to be only two days older than my own daughter!

A few years after we hosted Lauren, we hosted Guy Gould, a boy from Texas. At that time, I had transferred to a boys' school to attend the Science stream so it was fairly easy to have Guy enrolled there for the summer. It was a different experience hosting a boy and I guess it was inevitable that Guy made his own friends among the boys at school. I know he was an asset to the school basketball team.

My parents also became friends with his parents and in 1977 we visited them in Houston, Texas. I think Guy's Dad arranged for my father to be given the keys to the city of Houston. But unfortunately Guy and I never stayed in touch and I now have no idea what he is up to.

The AFS experience was definitely a very positive one for my family. We came to know a family from the other side of the world and realized that we really had many similarities with each other. Lauren and I regard each other as sisters to this day, 38 years after we first met.

Marina Mahathir



Our Daughter Joanna's Malaysian Family

In February 1988 Joanna, our eldest daughter returned from her AFS year in Perlis, Malaysia. During that time we had remained very close with fortnightly exchange of cassette tapes through which we kept ourselves updated on events. Once a month we spoke on the phone – the whole family sitting around the speaker phone. This made the year tolerable as otherwise the pain of separation would have been quite severe.

The day of her return dawned with her younger siblings making banners, blowing balloons and arranging for her favourite foods to be served. Joanna arrived in a Malay outfit – the Baju Kurung! Of course she had presents for all of us but what we noticed first was her speech. After one year in Malaysia, where she had insisted that her Malaysian family converse with her only in the native language, she was more fluent in Malay than in English. It was rather amusing to listen to her speak Malaysian English. She had begun to think, and even dream in Malay. It took her several months before she reverted to English!

We all loved having her home again, and enjoyed listening about her experiences in multi cultural Malaysia. Joanna stayed in touch with her Malaysian family through letters and the occasional phone call whilst still speaking Malay at every opportunity. She quickly settled down into the American way of life, which to a certain extent surprised me. Although she missed the Malaysian country and family, she was mature enough to accept the fact that it was only for one year. However, the bond she established with her mother and sisters was a priceless friendship that will last a lifetime.

When Joanna went on to Sacramento State University, there were about eighty Malaysian students and being eager to speak Malay and maybe eat her favourite Malaysian foods, she phoned several of them. They thought they were speaking to a Malay girl as she spoke with a strong Perlis accent. Imagine their surprise when they met a blonde Caucasian girl with an American accent!

Three years later Joanna returned to Perlis and stayed for ten weeks, this time as a family member and not an exchange student: thus cementing the bond even more.

Her stories of Malaysia and her family created an interest in our wanting to visit the wonderfully caring people who had accepted Joanna as their own. Our dream came true in November 2008 when my husband and I travelled to Asia. We arrived in Kuala Lumpur by train from Singapore to be greeted by Joanna's older sister, the day before Joanna was due to arrive. The following day we went to the airport to meet Joanna together with numerous members of the family. Young nieces and nephews who weren't even born when she had lived in Malaysia were part of the welcoming party at the airport!

As parents, we couldn't believe the wonderful friendship that had developed between Joanna and her Malaysian family, even after all those years of living in different continents. It was as if time had stood still. The excitement on her siblings' faces waiting for her to appear, Joanna speaking Malay again, and the joy in witnessing this much anticipated reunion was simply awesome!

We were treated like honoured guests during our short stay, but felt as though we have known Joanna's Malaysian family all our lives. It was a real experience to watch Joanna being a part of this culture that now encompassed us as well – as Joanna introduced us to it, translating and explaining events and happenings. We enjoyed ourselves so very much that we hope to return at the end of this year to enjoy the Malaysian experience again.

Linda



Tēna Koutou from Tauranga

Our first involvement with AFS was when Jason and Priscilla were at Wanganui High School, New Zealand. Jason was interested in experiencing a short term exchange in Germany - but we felt it was too expensive and he didn't pursue it. Priscilla however was interested in a 12 month experience, so we got involved with the local Council. We decided to host an international student, knowing that likewise another family somewhere in the world would be interested in our daughter in the future.

We really enjoyed having Lyna as part of our family and through her, getting to know the other Malaysians who were studying at the Polytechnic. We have fond memories of the social gatherings and the variety of Malaysian foods that the students cooked for us. Looking back, Lyna fitted in very well at home and also at the school she attended, even topping the class in at least one of the subjects. She became very independent in her new surroundings, going off shopping on her own, enjoying the kind of freedom that she said she did not have at home.

Lyna was a very good ambassador for Malaysia and we learned enough of the culture and attractions of her home country to want to visit it sometime.

She tried to take in all things Kiwi but yet retained the things that were important in her life like fasting at Ramadan. We were really impressed that a young girl was so disciplined away from home and with no family or peer pressure.

After six months, Priscilla went to Hungary on her 'exchange' and that left Lyna as our 'only child' at home. I think sometimes she did feel lonely and homesick - I have seen the far-away look in her eyes, but she did not let this affect her wanting to experience all that Wanganui had to offer. The second half of her stay was filled with the usual things - school, exams, socializing, school ball, AFS commitments and some trips away with us to visit relatives (both Paul's and my parents).

Eventually her year was up. Since then we have visited her family in Malaysia and she too has been back to visit us. Furthermore, because it was a great experience for us, we have continued to host more students since.

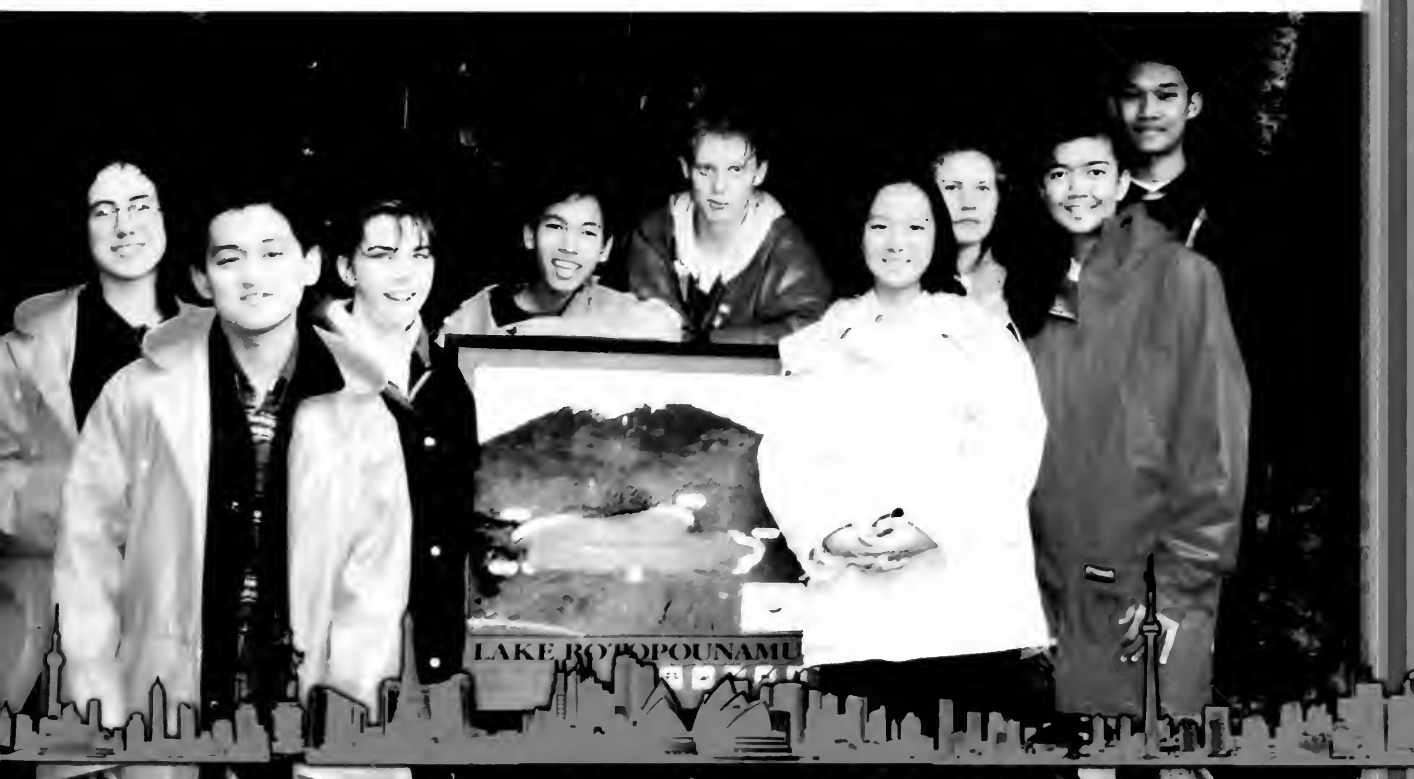
We have always been very lucky with our students - they have been great girls from great families. And we have enjoyed learning about the various countries that they represented. As host parents, we have learned so very much from these young ambassadors.



I'm not sure when AFS student exchanges first occurred, but I have a 58 year old cousin who went to the States when she was 16. Since then, she has kept in contact with her American family and recently even attended her host sister's daughter's wedding in USA!

In closing, we would like to congratulate Lyna on the good work she is doing with AFS. Best Wishes for the World Congress!

Suzanne & Paul Chapman



A Malay Girl in Kiwiland

It was 1986 when we decided we would like to have an AFS student come and share our lives for a year. Our daughter, Julie had been to Boston on an AFS experience and we were well immersed in AFS activities having, between us, served as Counsellor and President, on the selection panel as well as hosting activities etc.

We had spent 4 years living in Malaysia in the sixties and thought it would give us an advantage in hosting a Malay student. Having three daughters we decided that a girl would fit in best with our family. It was with great excitement that we received the papers for Atty Sulaiman and read about the young woman we were about to share our lives with.



Atty arrived and was very quiet and shy – for a little while. We knew it was difficult for her to get used to our climate, family, the school and last but not least: food. Not only did she have to get used to life in Palmerston North but we moved to Wanganui half way through her stay so she had another school to contend with and had to make new friends again. We didn't realise just how much we were to learn from Atty. Even though we had spent 4 years living in her country she was able to give us really personal and in-depth knowledge of the customs and people of Malaysia.

We admired Atty's spirit and courage to try out new things. She said that she was not going to pass up on any experience as it may not be given to her again. So, she tried out all sorts of things, even canoeing the Wanganui River. Experiencing 104 rapids, getting caught in a whirlpool and camping out on the side of the river were all new for her but she tackled it like everything else – with enthusiasm and a “must try to succeed” attitude.

Having had the experience of having students live in her house and share her family life, she had advice for other students. I think the most important piece of advice she offered was: **do not compare**. That is, don't compare your family with someone else's; don't compare the food; don't compare the home you are living in with your own home or another student's home. It is all a new experience so make the most of it. Of course with an attitude like that, the year was the best it could be, for us and for her. We really enjoyed Atty.

In 1988 we met Atty in Singapore as we passed through on our way to Europe. The next year we visited Atty's family. We met several members of the extended family and enjoyed life in their home. What a great experience that was! It certainly added to our knowledge of Malaysia.

Atty came back to visit us in 1996, not long after her marriage. It was really delightful to have her to ourselves again. In 2000 we once again visited KL and spent some time with Atty, Zaher, and the children. In 2006 we were fortunate that Atty could visit us again and she was able to catch up with her growing NZ family.

Until the next time we meet, we keep in touch through MSN, having little chats and keeping ourselves updated about each other's lives. The presence of Atty in our lives has meant that we gained a lovely daughter and a life-long relationship.

Valerie and Tony Cowan



Carima, Carima... I love you so!



When we (my two sons and my sister who lives with us) decided that we were to host Carima from Switzerland, we didn't know what to expect. This was our first experience of opening our hearts and our homes to a stranger from a different country half a world away. Would she be able to fit into our traditional Indian home in a Muslim country, into ways that would be very strange to her?

Needless to say, we need not have worried. She very soon made herself at home with my two boys (for whom having a sister was a novel experience), our three dogs (with whom she established a bond from day one), my maid and sister (both had an immediate liking for her) and with our extended family and friends. This can be largely attributed to Carima's friendly nature and her ability to accept another person's point of view. She enjoys her school, has made many friends who have now become our friends too, is open to every new experience and her enthusiasm and participation in our activities has endeared her to all she has come in contact with.

Carima has adapted to Malaysia in a remarkable way. She enjoys our food, is able to eat with her fingers, adheres to the house rules and ensures the family is kept informed of her whereabouts if she is out on her own. She also makes it a point to skype with her family in Switzerland every week.

Our home has certainly been enriched by her presence. We have learnt to appreciate Switzerland and the Swiss way of life through Carima, better than we would have done if we had tried to read books on Switzerland or watch promotional movies.

She has brought Switzerland alive for us!

On a personal note, I have really enjoyed the company of a daughter and know I will miss her very much when she leaves in January 2010. But I know the friendship that has developed between her family in Switzerland and our family in Malaysia will endure for a very long time.

Thank you AFS for the wonderful gift of a daughter and the growing friendship between our two families.

Susie



Youth Exchange between Malaysia and Japan

■ Youth Exchange Program (JENESYS)

The Japanese Government offers various youth exchange programs. At the 2nd East Asia Summit held in 2007, JENESYS announced the launching of a large-scale youth exchange initiative under which approximately 6,000 youths from EAS member countries would be invited to Japan over five years. This program aims to help create a foundation for a common future vision and solidarity in East Asia in the 21st century and to promote mutual understanding among the younger generation in the region through youth exchange. As of August 2009, 519 Malaysians have visited Japan and 4 Japanese language teachers have visited Malaysia through this program. AFS is one of the most reliable organizations that support this program.



■ Japanese High School Excursion

In Japan, the number of high school students who visit Malaysia by school excursion is increasing recently with approximately 16,000 Japanese students of 111 schools that visited Malaysia in fiscal 2007.

■ Look East Policy

This policy was proposed in 1982 by former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, to dispatch students & trainees to Japan and South Korea for the purposes of learning labor ethics, the will to study & work and so on. By 2008, approximately 13,000 Malaysians have been dispatched to Japan by this policy.

■ Japanese Government Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 1954 for the purpose of receiving excellent foreign students from all over the world to Japan as international students at the Japanese Government expense. By 2008, approximately 1,400 Malaysians have studied in Japan through this scholarship.



Malaysia...

Truly

Asia





Malaysia's Unique Monarchy

When the British colonised the various Malaysian states in the 18th and 19th Centuries, the role of the Malay Rulers was defined as the custodian of religion and the ceremonial Head of State. Legislative decisions however were the prerogative of the British Residents or Governors.

In 1957 when the British were in consultation with the locals for a peaceful transfer of powers to the new proposed independent country, the one main issue was that of the Monarch of the Federation of Malaya. Traditionally each state had its own Sultan. How to decide which one was to be the Monarch over the whole country? Each of the Malay states revered their individual Sultans and doing away with the monarchy was not an option.

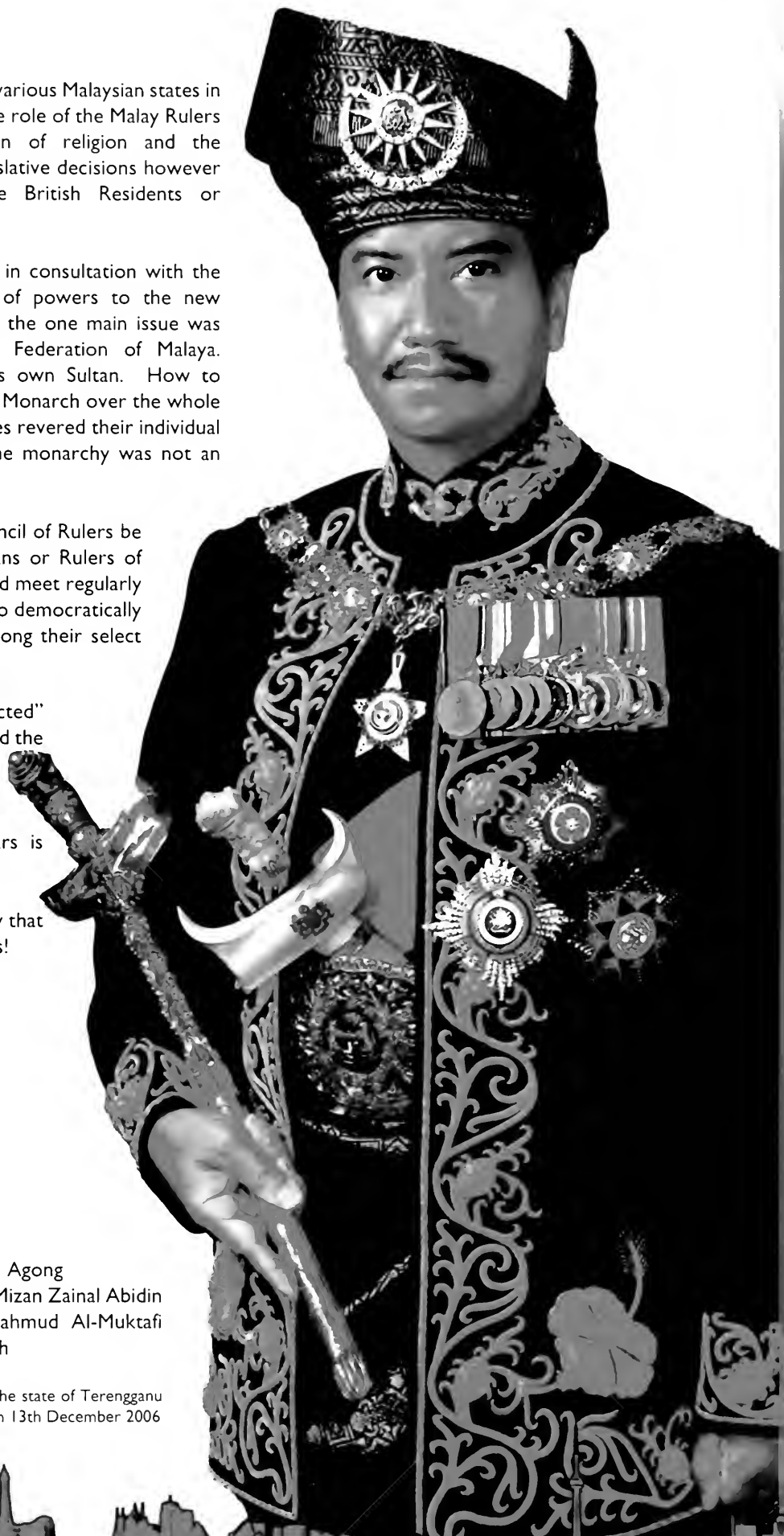
It was then decided that a Council of Rulers be set up, comprising of the Sultans or Rulers of the 9 States. This Council would meet regularly and one of its main duties was to democratically choose the next King from among their select group.

The Malaysian King thus "elected" from among his peers would hold the position for 5 years, after which he would return to his home state as the Sultan and a new King for the next 5 years is installed.

Malaysia is thus the only country that installs a new King every 5 years!

Yang di-Pertuan Agong
Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin
Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi
Billah Shah

Our 13th Head of State is from the state of Terengganu and started his reign of 5 years on 13th December 2006



Kuala Lumpur



Kuala Lumpur is usually referred to by its initials KL. It is the capital and the largest city in Malaysia. The city proper, covering an area of 244 sq km or 94 square miles, is home to an estimated 1.7 million. Greater Kuala Lumpur, also known as the Klang Valley, is an urban agglomeration of 7.2 million. It is the fastest growing metropolitan region in the country, in terms of population as well as economy.

Kuala Lumpur started in the 1850s, when the Malay Chief of Klang, invited some Chinese to open tin mines in the area. The Chinese landed at the confluence of Sungai Gombak and Sungai Klang. Sungai Gombak was previously known as Sungai Lumpur, which means Muddy River.

Thus this new settlement became known as "Kuala Lumpur". It was basically an untidy area of shops and houses, catering for the needs of the tin mining community until 1870s when a strong Chinese leader emerged.

Yap Ah Loy, (picture above) who was known as Kapitan China (Chinese captain) is the one person credited with the survival and systematic growth of the town. He planned the development of KL from a small insignificant outpost for tin miners into a dynamic growth area, so much so that the state capital of Selangor was moved from Klang to the more strategically placed Kuala Lumpur in 1880.

Following a massive fire and a flood in 1881, much of KL's wooden structures were destroyed. The new brick buildings, mirrored the shop houses in South China, with "five foot ways". These old structures are still evident in the older parts of Kuala Lumpur.



In 1896, Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the capital of the newly formed Federated Malay States. A mixture of different communities settled in various sections of Kuala Lumpur. The Chinese mainly settled around the commercial centre of Market Square, east of Klang River, and towards Chinatown. The Malays, Indian Chettiars, and Indian Muslims resided along Java Street (now Jalan Tun Perak). The Padang (field), now known as Merdeka Square, was the center of the British administrative offices. The British influenced architecture is still very much in evidence here today.

During World War II, Kuala Lumpur was occupied by the Japanese forces from 1942 to 1945. The country reverted to British rule from 1945 until 1957, when it was granted Independence.

When Malaysia was formed in September 1963, KL continued as the nation's capital. In 2001, with the establishment of Putrajaya as a Federal Territory, as well as the seat of the federal government, the administrative and judicial functions of the government were shifted from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya. Kuala Lumpur however still retained its legislative function, and remains the home of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King).

Today KL is a bustling modern city that has played host to many international sporting, political and cultural events including the 1998 Commonwealth Games and the Formula One World Championship. In addition, Kuala Lumpur is home to the tallest twin buildings in the world, the Petronas Twin Towers.



Batu Caves

Batu Caves is a limestone hill with a series of caves on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. The cave is a popular Hindu shrine, dedicated to Lord Muruga and is the focal point of the annual Thaipusam festival (end January / early February) which attracts millions of pilgrims annually.

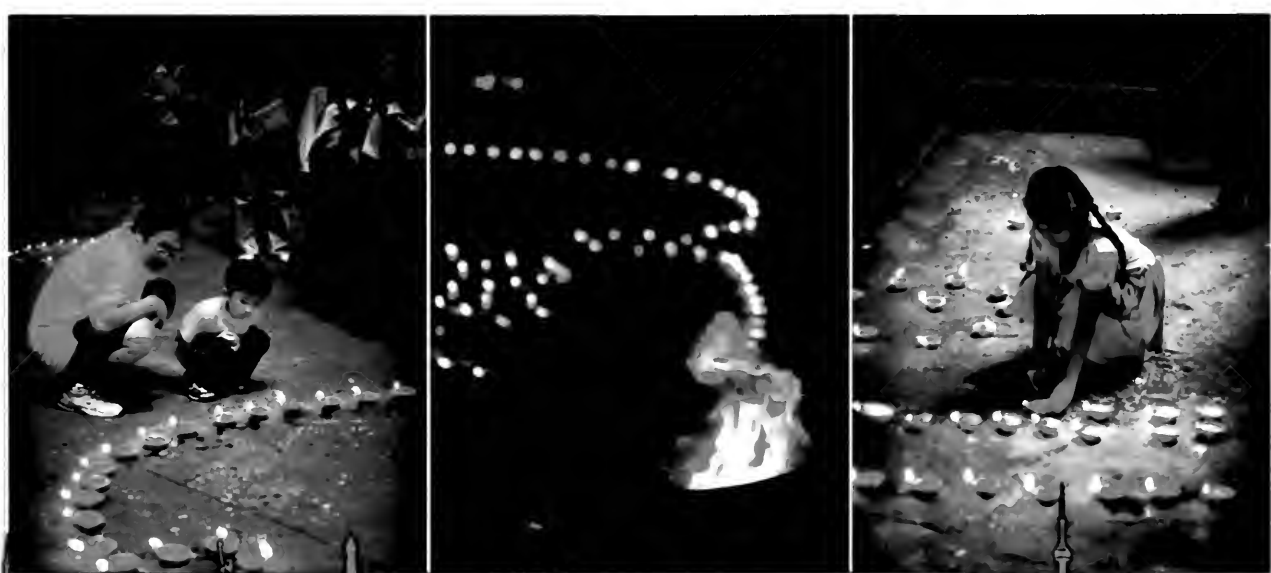
Batu Caves actually consists of three main caves and a few smaller ones. The biggest, referred to as Cathedral Cave or Temple Cave, has a 100 m-high ceiling, and features ornate Hindu shrines. To reach it, visitors have to climb a steep flight of 272 steps. At the base of the hill are two more cave temples, Art Gallery Cave and Museum Cave, both of which are full of Hindu statues and paintings. An audio tour is available to visitors.



A 42.7m (130 feet) high statue of Lord Muruga, the tallest in the world was unveiled in January 2006.

In 2007, the festival attracted more than 1.5 million pilgrims from Malaysia and Singapore. It also attracts tourists from around the world who are fascinated by the size and colours of the wooden carriers (kavadi) in which devotees carry milk as an offering at the top of the stairs.

To those among you who are photography buffs – remember the date and make an appointment at the Batu Caves. See you there!



Ipoh, Perak

Ipoh is often called the "town that tin built". Owing to the large concentration of tin mines in the area, this town grew from a small village on the banks of the Kinta River in the 1820s, to accommodate the needs of the tin mining community.

By the turn of the century, the town was one of the most important towns in the area. The Standard Chartered Bank (then the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China Ltd) opened its branch here in 1902. It provided much needed credit to the Straits Trading Company and the Eastern Smelting Company. Other British companies like Botly and Co, A H Whitakker & Co, the Chartered Accounting firm of Evatt & Co, the Estate Visiting Agents, Milne & Stevens also set up their offices here.

Ipoh's location as the geographical centre of the rich tin-bearing Kinta Valley made it a natural centre of growth.



In December 1941, Ipoh was occupied by the Japanese Army which named it the state capital, replacing the northern town of Taiping. In March 1942, the Japanese civil administration or Perak Shu Seicho was set up at St. Michael's Institution, a school run by the La Salle Brothers. This prestigious school is one of the more prominent landmarks in town and the proud Alma Mater of many politicians and sportsmen who grew up in Ipoh. This school building is an impressive building by any standards and well worth a visit.

Ipoh has many caves in the limestone hills around town. The Sam Po Tong (Cavern of Three Precious) temple, is a Chinese temple built within a cave. Its sister temple, Perak Tong (Perak Cave), has a steep, tall staircase in the interior of the cave rising up to the top of the hill where one is greeted by a panoramic view of Ipoh and its surroundings. The statue of Buddha in Perak Tong was the tallest and largest of its kind in Malaysia when first commissioned.

Another must-see is the Kek Lok Tong (Cavern of Utmost Happiness) It is cleaner, quieter and cooler than all the other cave temples. It also has the best scenic views.

This quiet town is slower paced than KL but has just as much to offer the discerning traveller.



Malacca

Historically, the beginnings of Malaysia have their origin in 1400 when Parameswara, a Srivijayan Hindu prince landed here. According to legend, he was resting under a tree (called Melaka by locals) when his dog cornered a mousedeer. The mousedeer managed to escape by pushing the dog into the river.

Taking this as a propitious omen of the weak overcoming the powerful, Parameswara decided to settle here.



As Malacca was strategically located at the narrowest part of the Malacca Straits, and sheltered from strong waves of the Indian Ocean by the island of Sumatra, it soon became an important port of call. All ships plying the Malacca Straits had to stop here for refuelling and supplies and Parameswara, who had embraced Islam in 1414 and taken the name of Sultan Iskandar Shah, was able to ensure Malacca's position as THE most important trading port in the region. Traders from several countries like India, Arabia and other islands of the Malay archipelago made Malacca their home.

Malacca's prosperity soon attracted the attention of Siam, the other powerful nation in the area, which waged several attacks on the port kingdom.

By 1456, Malacca had staved off many Siamese attacks but knew it was only a matter of time before Siam would be victorious so the stage was set for an alliance with China, a more powerful neighbour. The Chinese fleet was already using Malacca as an important port of call so a marriage was arranged between Sultan Mansur Shah and Princess Hang Li Po from China. This saved Malacca from Siamese attacks and it continued to be an independant nation for the next 50 years.

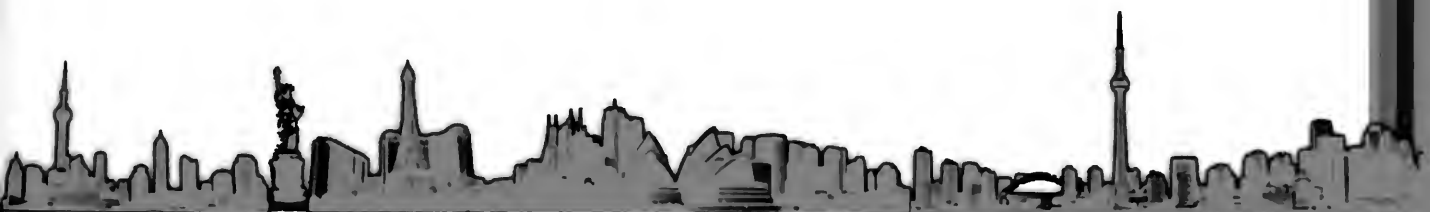


In 1511 the Portuguese fleet under Alfonso Du Albuquerque launched an attack from their base in Goa, India. To keep their new acquisition safe from marauding invaders, they built a fort on top of St Paul's Hill, commanding a view of the sea on both sides of the port. Malacca now became the centre for Portuguese trade and missionary activities.

The next European power who eyed this kingdom was Holland who defeated the Portuguese in 1641 and took over Malacca. The Dutch however preferred the Indonesian islands so exchanged Malacca for Batavia (Jakarta) with the British by the Anglo Dutch treaty of 1824. The British ruled until 1957 when the Malay States were given independence.

The influence of the early traders and the three European powers who ruled Malacca is today very evident in its unique food, culture, buildings and attractions. It is little wonder that all tour companies include Malacca as one of the main must-see destinations.

Of particular interest is the Portuguese Settlement where you find the descendants of the early Portuguese sailors who celebrate Feast of San Pedro, patron saint of fishermen as one their major religious holidays and speak Cristao (pronounced christang) a old Portuguese dialect that is used no where else in the world.



Kuching, Sarawak



Kuching, the capital of the East Malaysian state of Sarawak is the largest city on the island of Borneo and the fourth largest city in Malaysia.

Sarawak was part of the Sultanate of Brunei 200 years ago. As a reward for help in putting down a rebellion, it was ceded to the British adventurer James Brooke who ruled it as his personal kingdom. The Brooke family ruled Sarawak until the Japanese occupation in December 1941. After World War II, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke ceded Sarawak to the British Crown. In September 1963, the British granted North Borneo and Sarawak independence, thus paving the way for them to merge with independent Federation of Malaya to create Malaysia.

The origins of the city's name have never been clear. "Kuching" does translate into "cat" in Malay but this area has never been known for its feline population. There is however a separate explanation whereby it may actually be a variation of the Indian name for "port" - "Cochin". Kuching was first settled by Indian traders who set up base at Santubong. Artifacts of Hindu origin can today be seen at the State Museum.

Kuching offers some of the world's greatest natural flora and fauna and this has attracted several international film makers to make Kuching their film location.

"The Sleeping Dictionary" financed by Fine Line Features and starring starring Jessica Alba was shot here in 2000 and is probably the best-known Hollywood production to be filmed in Kuching.

Other famous Hollywood movies shot in (and around) Kuching included:

1. "Farewell to the King" starring Nick Nolte (1987)
2. "Welcome Home" starring Kris Kristoffen (1989)
3. "The Intended" starring two Oscar winners and a Golden Globe winner
4. "The Sacred Planet" a Walt Disney Production

Besides Hollywood, Kuching is also a target film location for Hong Kong film directors while a Japanese company has also briefly shot a Japanese TV Series here. Currently, India's Bollywood directors are making their way to Kuching , indirectly attracting more Indian tourists to Sarawak.

The old Sarawak Museum was built by Rajah Charles Brooke in 1891 and modelled on a town hall in Normandy. Within the city area, there are several museums such as the Sarawak Museum, Chinese Museum and the Kuching Cat Museum. Interesting landmarks and must see sites include The Astana (the former palace of the White Rajahs and currently the official residence of the Governor of Sarawak), Fort Margherita, the Tua Pek Kong temple and the Main Bazaar.



Kuching is also noted for its beautiful sunsets, often complimented by tourists as "one of the most beautiful in the world".

Since 1997, Kuching has been host to the Rainforest World Music Festival, an annual music festival which brings performers and spectators to the region from all over the world.

Redang Island

Pulau Redang is located in the South China Sea off the northeast coast of Terengganu.

Originally a small fishing village, today visitors to Redang are there to soak up the sun and snorkel in the pristine blue waters of this relatively unspoilt island.

The release of the successful Hong Kong movie 'Summer Holiday' in 2000, much of which was shot here, thrust Redang Island into the international spotlight. The movie generated much publicity, awareness and interest both locally and overseas.

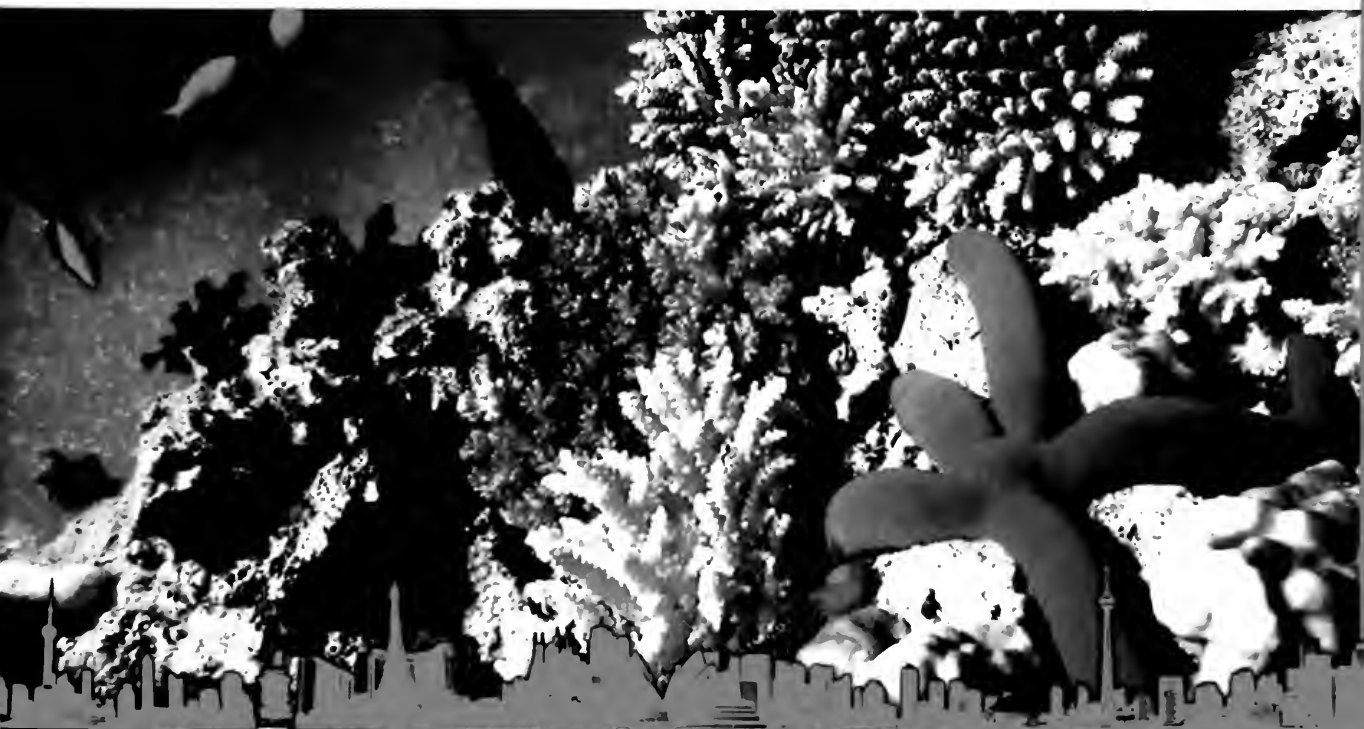


Christian from Germany during AFS Camp 2009

The island boasts of wide sandy beaches which have been used to advantage by the several holiday resorts, the most notable being Berjaya Redang located in *Teluk Dalam* or Deep / Inland Bay, a bay that is so sheltered that it is not affected by the northeast monsoon.

The exposed coastline is dominated by rocky outcrops, steep walls and cliffs while caves and grottos cut out by wave erosion can be found in sedimentary rock areas – fantastic areas for caving and exploring.

The interior of the island is covered with thick vegetation comprising mainly dipterocarpus forests in the east, and shorea forests in the west. Coconut trees line sandy shores, while the 'sukun' or breadfruit tree is fairly abundant. Island fauna comprise mainly small reptiles and amphibians such as snakes, monitor lizards, geckos, toads and frogs, small mammals such as macaque monkeys, bats, mousedeer, civet cats, rodents, domestic goats and sheep and more than 50 species of birds.



Sipadan Island, Sabah

Sipadan Island is located in the Celebes Sea, off the coast of East Malaysia on the Island of Borneo. It was formed by living corals growing on top of an extinct volcanic cone that took thousands of years to develop. Sipadan is located in the centre of one of the richest marine habitats in the world.

More than 3,000 species of fish and hundreds of coral species have been classified in this ecosystem. Sipadan has been declared by the British as a bird sanctuary, being an important stopover for migratory birds like the greater sand plover, common sandpiper and wood sandpiper.



Pulau Sipadan is part of the turtle egg native reserve of Sabah - an important step in protecting the very species that makes Sipadan famous. Although dive trips to the island have been organised by Borneo Divers since 1983, Jacques Cousteau's film, 'Ghost of the Sea Turtles' brought international fame to Malaysia's only truly oceanic island. When the charismatic Frenchman announced, "I have seen other places like Sipadan, 45 years ago, but now no more. Now we have found an untouched piece of art", marketing bods all over the world took note and have duly been repeating the mantra ad nauseum ever since.



Now this world-famous Sipadan Island, a mere half km in length and 200m in width has 5 resorts rubbing shoulders with one another, on its northern beaches. Sipadan's fame attracts divers in droves to its reefs every day, lusting to gorge themselves on the underwater smorgasbord of marine excess that is found in the waters of Sipadan's dive sites. Normally rare diving scenes are evident in the waters around Sipadan: schools of green and hawksbill turtles nesting and mating, schools of barracuda and big-eye trevally in tornado-like formations, pelagic species such as manta rays, eagle rays, scalloped hammerhead sharks and whale sharks.

Sipadan Island offers you a once in a lifetime natural wonder of the world that has to be experienced first hand. A diving adventure to Sipadan is a must!



Taman Negara, Pahang



Taman Negara is Malaysia's Premier National Park. It is one of the oldest unspoilt rainforests in the world, and estimated to be 130 million years old. Located mainly in the Malaysian state of Pahang, Taman Negara also stretches into two other states in the north, namely Kelantan and Terengganu. It is accessible via several popular and main access routes, although there are other less developed access points. With an area of 4,343 square kilometers or more than a million acres, Taman Negara is the largest park and the most extensive protected rainforest area in Malaysia. Besides the dense virgin jungle, it also boasts Peninsular Malaysia's highest mountain namely, Gunung Tahan at 2,187 meters (7,173 feet). As it is a protected area, logging or any other commercial development is strictly prohibited.

Taman Negara was originally set aside as a wildlife reserve in 1925, to protect wildlife and game species in the lush rainforests. This early section of the park covered over 1,300 square kilometers or 500 square miles of untouched natural tropical rainforest. By 1939, the National Park was established and in commemoration of England's King George V's Silver Jubilee, was named King George V Park. After Malaysia achieved independence in 1957, the park was renamed Taman Negara.

Taman Negara offers visitors, especially the adventurous and curious, a never-ending opportunity to explore and experience Malaysia's rich natural treasure of unspoilt verdant jungles, rivers and mountains.

A visitor is bound to feel overwhelmed by the richness, diversity and beauty of the plants and tree species in this National Park. This is not surprising as one-third of all the world's flowering plants are found in Malaysia. You will find that the largest plant community in Taman Negara is the lowland rainforest – where although trees are dominant, they co-exist with other plant forms like shrubs, parasites, climbers and lichens, fungi and others. Herb and plant naturalists will do well to take time to identify and marvel at the richness, age and size of the variety of plant life here.

Taman Negara is a much favoured spot for avid anglers, with the rivers and stream providing a large variety of fresh water fish. However one needs to apply for a license to fish at the selected rivers. The fish found here are very much larger than the fish sold in the markets.



There are several resorts within the Park offering 5 star suites and bungalows, or typical Malay timber chalets. Also available are dormitories, hostels and a 2.5 acre camping ground where tents and sleeping bags are available for hire. It therefore caters for everyone who wants the Malaysian experience.

You cannot say you have experienced Malaysia unless you have spent a few nights in the verdant, lush Malaysian rain forest.





Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Muddy Waters, BB King, War, James Brown, Chuck Berry, Johnny Guitar Watson, Earth Wind and Fire, Lou Rawls, Peaches and Herb, Four Tops, The Doobie Brothers.....oops, sorry I got carried away there. Actually, this is the kind of music available at

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Established in mid 2007, the bistro has slowly grown in popularity with those wanting to relax after a hard day's work; those who just want to sit back and enjoy good music, good food and over 20 different kinds of imported beer in bottles and cans (sorry, John's does not serve draught beer).

Commencing November 2009, John's Bistro will start to serve non halal dishes like John's famous pork ribs, roasted pork belly and pork knuckles. Besides the current pasta and anti pasti dishes, there are also plans to introduce lasagna rigatoni in gorgonzola cheese sauce, grilled salmon, lamb chops, sirloin, T- bone and rump steak, fish and chips and homemade hamburgers. Other new items on the menu are Mexican Chili Con Carne, Hungarian Goulash, Belgian Witloof with ham n cheese sauce, German Bratwurst, Austrian Schnitzel, Spanish tapas and a brand new seafood platter featuring grilled seafood, baked king prawns, fried callamari and grilled rock crabs.

.....Mouth watering, yet?.....

Local dishes like salted fish curry, garoupa fish head curry, king prawn sambal, rock crab curry (hot and spicy) and the very special John's own grilled spicy chicken all feature prominently in the menu and are crowd favourites. Also on the "Must Try List" are roast pork, roast beef, roast lamb and roast chicken all served with John's own special house mashed potatoes, fresh greens and generous servings of brown gravy.

John's will soon be open for brunch during weekends and public holidays where you can tuck into a man sized English breakfast / (fry-up) of sausages, pork ham, pork bacon, mushrooms, baked beans, fried eggs and grilled tomatoes.

Imported beers cost between RM18 and RM28, while spirits (except cognac of course) go at RM15 a shot. The Bistro also caters for private parties and can cater up to 40 pax for buffet and 20 pax for a sit down meal.

If you want to get away from noisy pubs with girly hostesses, loud techno and sports channel TV, come right on over to John's Bistro where you can savour the ambiance of the 70s, soul n funk, rock n' roll, jazz, blues and South American beat, a large variety of imported beers, good food and the sounds of the seventies. You can also play pool.

Who would John like to serve at his Bistro? It is his dream to cook a T-bone steak for Denzel Washington.

A NIGHT AT JOHN'S BISTRO WILL BE A NIGHT YOU WILL NEVER EVER REMEMBER!!!



John's Bistro
1st Floor, 95M 21/37,
Damansara Utama (Uptown)
47400 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia.

For reservations please call: 016 - 6659874
or email soulfunk@hotmail.com

JOHN'S SPECIAL CHICKEN CURRY

Ingredients

- 1 Whole chicken, cut into eight pieces
- 4 potatoes, quartered
- 2 – 3inch cinnamon stick
- 4 – 6 cardamoms
- 3 star anis
- 4 – 6 cloves
- 2 stalks curry leaves
- 3 large Bombay onions)
- 4 – 5 pips of garlic) blended
- 2 in ginger root)
- coconut milk from one coconut
- ¼ cup of tamarind juice
- 2 tbsp each of curry and chili powder
- ¼ cup of cooking oil



Method

1. Pour a quarter cup of oil into the pot on the stove.
2. Fry the blended onion, garlic and ginger paste lightly for a few minutes.
3. Then add the curry leaves
4. Now reduce the flame and add the cinnamon stick, cardamom, star anis, cloves and stir until the fragrance of the spices fills the kitchen.
5. Add the chicken pieces and chilli powder. Mix it thoroughly so that the chilli and spices completely coat the pieces of chicken.
6. Then add the curry powder, stir well and let the mixture sweat it out for 10 minutes.
7. Pour a cup of hot water into the pot and stir the mixture well.
8. Increase the flame and keep stirring until the mixture starts bubbling.
9. Now add the tomatoes, carrots and potatoes and stir well for about 10 minutes
10. Then slowly add the coconut milk a little at a time stirring occasionally for the next 20 minutes or until it starts to boil.
11. Add in the tamarind juice, cover the pot, increase the flame and let the curry boil for about 15 minutes.
12. Add salt and pepper to taste.
13. Serve with a side order of stir fried vegetables and bread or with plain white rice.



PIAH'S PRAWN SAMBAL

Ingredients

- 8 king sized prawns
- half a cup of cooking oil
- 1 tbsp belacan (shrimp paste)
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 6 dried chilli
- 2 Bombay Onions)
- 3 pips garlic)
- 1 in ginger root) Blended into
- 1 in galangal (laos)) a paste
- 1 stalk serai (lemon grass)



Method

1. Soak the dried chilli in boiling water, drain and blend. Leave aside.
2. Clean and wash the prawns, remove the limbs and de-vein; take care to leave the head and tail intact. This will ensure the cooked prawns retain their shape and not curl into a semicircle.
3. Place the pan on a lighted stove.
4. Pour half a cup of cooking oil and when slightly heated, add in the blended paste of onions, garlic, ginger and serai.
5. Fry the paste for a few minutes, then add in the belacan and continue stirring to prevent the mixture from sticking to the pan.

6. Now reduce the flame and add the blended chilli paste. Stir well till the chilli is cooked and the aroma of the spices fills the kitchen.
7. Now increase the flame and add the brown sugar and stir the mixture.
8. Then add the prawns and tamarind juice.
9. Take care when stirring - to ensure prawns are intact and sambal does not stick to the bottom of pan.
10. When the prawns are cooked, switch off the flame.
11. Let the sambal cool in the pan for a while before dishing it out to serve with fragrant rice. Fried peanuts and slices of cucumber are perfect accompaniments to the dish.



Japanese Exchange Diversity Individuals



"Youkoso" from Japanese Exchange of Diversity Individuals Alumni (J.E.D.I) where we all share things in common!

I would like to express our greatest thanks to Yayasan AntaraBudaya Malaysia for giving us this opportunity to write an article regarding our Alumni which is parked under Year Program Alumni but is specifically for those who went to Japan on an exchange program.

Last year, some of the Japanese Returnees got together for the Soranbushi Dance that was requested by Yayasan AntaraBudaya Malaysia in conjunction with 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. The ten of us spent much time together for several months, and enjoyed ourselves so much that we came up with the idea of formalizing this group to ensure its continuity.

Why did we go down this path? It was because we could not get enough of our shared experiences and our love for Japanese food and language. As Japanese returnees, we were also keen to improve our proficiency in the language. After all, we had left the Land of the Rising Sun quite a few years back and were losing touch with the language.

A couple of Meetings were held to jump start the movement, a lunch meeting at Sushi Zanmai Restaurant in Sunway Pyramid to recruit more members and to discuss the scope of the organization. Another was an attendance at Bon Odori which provided our members with a fantastic photo opportunity. Our Election Meeting was held on 20th June 2009 and we have decided that the Board will comprise a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations / Event Co-ordinator.

Our mission is to create a good rapport and better understanding between AFS returnees and Japanese students in Malaysia and world wide; to keep in touch and organize ge- together activities with veteran and junior Japan Returnees, to improve our proficiency in the Japanese language , to organize a country orientation for sending and hosting students and organize events for hosting and committee members.

We jointly decided first on the name; our logo of a blue crane representing peace; then the tagline "where you and I have some things in common" was thought most appropriate. It not only represented what common experiences we shared in Japan but also beautifully represented what our cultural mix in Malaysia is known for.

J.E.D.I comprises returnees who are keen to improve their knowledge of all things Japanese and are creative enough to improve not just the alumni but also AFS in forging links between AFS Japan and Japan.

Several fun and fund raising articles are planned and as they take off, we will keep everyone informed. We look forward to an increase in participation so that our activities are better known and thus elevate our standing in the AFS community.

Together we can make a difference!!!

J.E.D.I



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Salehuddin Hashim
Soong Jin Jin
T Sukumary Chitty



FMWP USA 1960 – 1961
Jenny Oh (Shabudin)
Head of Tour Programs WC09



FMWP USA 1962-1963
Dr. Bien Mei Nien
Past National Director



FMWP USA 1963-1964
Fatimah Mohamed
Past Chair of AFS
Malaysia



FMWP USA 1967 - 1968
Datuk Hamidon Ali
Permanent Representative
and Ambassador of Malaysia
to the United Nations



FMWP USA 1969-1970
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 Jane Erbert Evaristus
 Jenar B. Lamdah
 Judy Evelyn M Westherout
 Liza Shim Mui Fong
 Mabel Lo Ching H. Lou
 Margaret M. Goh
 Naveen Chander
 Ramiah Suppiah
 Tan Siew Khim
 Wan Zuraidah Bt. Wan Nik
 Wong Luen Heng
 Wong Newton Kong Tin
 Yap Koon Hong

FMYP USA 1974 - 1975

Baldish Kaur
 Che Ah Ahmad
 Chehel Autar Kaur
 Francis Gombek
 Gregory Bansa Jana
 Izan Mohd. Yusuff
 Jesse Ann Bruyne
 Kwek Lee Pieng
 Lalitha Nambiar
 Lee Gim Keit
 Lim Boon Hock
 Lim Kheng Jee
 Lim Siew Lan
 Mahadzir Dato' Lokman
 Mary Zachariah
 Norhana Zainal Abidin
 Pusha Valli Panadam
 Rajan Chitty
 Rozaida Mohd. Nazir
 Rubina Mustaffa Kamal
 Zabadah Idris

FMYP USA 1975-1976

Chan Lai Fun

Chan Siew Hoong
 Clara Briggets
 Clement Chong Tsin Yap
 Dr. Selva Malar Rasiah
 Goh Day Eel
 Johan Mokhtar
 Kok Swee Kheng
 Lee Siew Leong
 Lee Sik Beng
 Lee Yoon Lin
 Liaw Sin Kiong
 Lim Su See
 Linda Oliverio
 Ng Peng Siah
 Noor Hafizah Khairudin
 Norhayati Ahmad
 Ozair Omar
 Sundha Paraman
 Tan Siew Huang
 Theresa Cheng
 Thiang Siew Eng
 Victor Tan Soo Lim
 Vincent Chow Poh Jin
 Vivien Goo Guit Beang
 Yong Chun Chin

MNP DENMARK 1975-1976

Khalilah Mohd Talha

FMYP SWITZERLAND 1975-1976

Ng Kah Leong

FMYP ENGLAND 1975-1976

Chan Su Sin

FMYP USA 1976-1977

Aminah Syed Ali
 Bobby Tan
 Daya Nair
 Fauziah Ahmad
 George Ho
 Lui Eng Lip
 Mohd Akhtar M. Zainudin
 Nor Hashimah Abdullah
 Ong Siew Koon
 Polycarp H.F. Wong
 Tan Lai Kim
 Tan Seato
 Teh Geok Lian
 Vernon G. Westerhout
 Wan Sim Mei
 Yunus Apok

FMYP USA 1977 - 1978

Abdul Kahar Abdul Ghaffar
 Bernard Bekon Jenet
 Chung Kim Fui
 Hamidah Hashim
 Hazlinda Mohd Zain
 Ho Mee Hong
 Junaidah Mohd Said
 Kwan Chee Wai
 Lee Fuh Yen
 Leela Menon
 Marie Anne De Rosario
 Mohd Nashuha Jamidin
 Noorshidah Ismail
 Norlilah Mohd Tawil
 Oh Hui Fun

P. Thomas Simon
 Patricia Low Mei Ling
 Raman Ismail
 Shantini Andrea Petrus
 Siew Yoke Moi
 Tan Beng Choo
 Wan Rosita Wan Mohamed
 Yap Phek Kheng

FMYP DENMARK 1977-1978

Leong May Chan

FMYP FRANCE 1977-1978

Shamsu Mohd Yusof

FMYP USA 1978-1979

Bessie Lee Lay Hoon
 Cheong Keng Hon
 Dayana Faziha Ahmad Kamaluddin
 Jimmy Ooi
 Kim Ling Lee
 Lee Soi Fong
 Lening Robin
 Loh Aik Soon
 Mary Cherian
 Mohd. Amin Hj. Daud
 Mohd. Hairudin Sulaiman
 Naomi Jambunathan
 Ong Soh Ping
 Rokiah Mohammad
 Roshan Joshi
 Shamini Dias
 Tan See Lim

FMYP GERMANY 1978-1979

Irene Lim

FMYP USA 1979-1980

Choon Siew Mei
 Joyce Ariadurray
 Khoo Poh Lin
 Lau Chow Ong
 Lee Choon Watt
 Lian Siew Ling
 Mutiara Mohamed
 Pradeep Kumar Vasam
 Rosni Alias
 Rozina Kamalul Arifin
 Rubiah Jaafar
 Tan Chooi Kim
 Yap Chui Lee
 Zahariah Abdul Kahar
 Zaleha Salleh

FMYP DENMARK 1979 -1980

Charmaine Gomez
 Yeong Joo Kean

FMYP USA 1980-1981

Abdul Rahim Md Zain
 Hanizam Yaacob
 Ho Peng Soon
 Indira Raveendran
 Jasmini Ratnam
 Kuek Boon Teck
 Lelian Solip
 Mariam Mahmud
 Noriah Othman
 Pat Arokiasamy

Priscilla Wee Yu Ming
 Radzuan Sulaiman
 Soraya Jalil
 Susan Lau Foong Chun
 Yim Mun Yee
 Zakaria Muhammad

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1980-1981

Katijah Abdul Rahman
 Noridah Mohd Saleh

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1980-1981

Saleha Reger Ahmad

FMSP AUSTRALIA 1980-1981

Choosak Usaha
 Ian Richard Gopal
 Khairun Haji Bilal
 Mohd Redza Shah Abdul Wahid
 Noraliza Ayub
 Siti Baizura Mohd Yunus
 Teo Yuen Ian

FMYP USA 1981-1982

Abu Bakar Musa
 Anne George
 Augusta Ann Lawrence
 Azmi Bujang
 Chew Meng Lee
 Chia Wee Lee
 Dahnyor Molkan
 Eva Au
 Hasnur Hashim
 Jeingim L.Lajuni
 Lim Kong Tow
 Maya Mannat
 Norazlin Abdul Rahman
 Norjalelayati Mohamed
 Ong Tien Kwan
 Roduan Abu Samah
 Ruzita Othman
 Sharon Lee Chooi Fong
 Shuck Yin Wah
 Soraya Abdul Razak
 Teoh Ai Sim
 Yap Chui Fong
 Yusrina Mohd Yusoff

FMYP JAPAN 1981-1982

Saiful Bahari Ahmad

FMYP ITALY 1981-1982

David P. Bouville

FMYP SWITZERLAND 1981-1982

Tahani Ma Ching

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1981-1982

Delia Ruth Paul
 Habibah Sharif
 Siew King Wai

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1981-1982

Azlina Aziz
 Ibrahim Hassan
 Ng Kian Chin

FMSP AUSTRALIA 1981-1982

Latiff Coupon



FMYP USA 1972-1973
 Datin Yasmin Yusuff
 Former Miss Malaysia



FMYP USA 1973 - 1974
 Naveen Chander
 Chair, Branding and Positioning
 WC09



FMYP USA 1974-1975
 Dato' Mahadzir Lokman
 Head of Receptions &
 Banquets WC09



MNP DENMARK 1975-1976
 Khalilah Dato' Mohd Talha
 Co-Chair WC09

Lian Sew Chin
Mashitah Jais
Michael Loh Tee Yong
Roszanaliza Askandar
Sarani Zakaria
Zanariah Abdul Rahman

FMSP NEW ZEALAND 1981-1982

Asmadi Md Salleh
Ng Wai Liam
Tan Quan Bee

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1982-1983

Eric Phan Sze Loong
Florinda Abdul Kadir
Haslina Kamis
Loo Chuan Yeow
Rosnani Suhut
Sutinah Bajuri

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1982-1983

Chew Bee Neo
Normah Mohd Yusof
Tengku Amri Tengku Hussien

FMYP USA 1982-1983

Afiza Abdul Majid
Bhupinder S. Banwait
Elaine Yeoh Su Seem
Jamal Harim Abdullah
Low Chooi Yan
Malini Ak Ebot
May Yap
Mille Chan Su Yim
Mohd Hassan Abdullah
Ng Lai Wan
Noraini Noor Khan
Normah Baharom
Norzilawati Mohd Noor
Ong Jin Choo
Roslina Ibrahim
Susanna George
Theresa Vincent
Zahari Abdul Majid
Zaleha Ibrahim

FMSP AUSTRALIA 1982-1983

George Choong Yong
Ida Yong Siow San
Lim Wee Kuan
Raymond Nyam
Roslan Abdul Ghani
Suresh Thirugnanam
Wan Aishah Wan Ariffin
Zalina Mohd Ali

FMSP NEW ZEALAND 1982-1983

Jamaluddin Karim
Mohd Aziz Mohd Yusoff
Nora Hendon Faezah
Norazian Mohd Razlan

FMYP JAPAN 1982-1983

Shim Hui Chyen

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1983-1984

Elaine J Johnson
Hamdan Mohd Sahal
Irene Samuel
Mohd Hyffny Ejom
Shamsul Azilah Abdul Aziz
Tey Cwee Chin
Zuraida Abdul Rashid

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1983-1984

Asmah Jaafar
Dorothy Chuan Hui Chuan
Margaret Huang
Zainal Abidin Masrom



FMYP USA 1982-1983
Jamal Harim Abdullah
Secretary WCD9

FMYP JAPAN 1983-1984

Abdul Aziz Baba
Annuar Ayob
Halimatun Baayah Hamzah
Jalina Jalil
Lee Lynn Lin
Yee Tham Wah

FMYP ITALY 1983-1984

Jacqueline K. Dawson

FMYP USA 1983-1984

Beulah D'souza
Bhavani Arumugam
Choong Lai Koon
Kishna Fitra Nordin
Latifah Jantan
Low Su Ann
Lynette Khoo Eu Sie
Nurliza Abdul Khalid
Suresh Raveendran
Wahizah Abdul Wahid
Wan Khairunnisa Wan Hussein

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1984-1985

Abdul Rahim Saad
Aminuddin Reza Jaafar
Christopher Tan Chie Kiong
Donatus Justin
Lim Teck Yee
Mazliatun Aslamiah Meor Ahmad
Nor Baidzurah Mohd Ali
Norlin Abu Ashaari
Tan Yee Ming
Zamri Pilus

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1984-1985

Goh Chin Ee
Lim Swee Poh A.K.A Nurul
Roshidi Md Ariff
Ungku Farah Ungku Ismail
Wong Poh Choo

FMYP JAPAN 1984-1985

Azmi Abu Bakar
Chee Shin Yee
Mohd.Nizamudin Mokhtar
Noor Isham Yaakob
Norrasidah Ismail
Siti Fatimah Halim
Theresa Liew Lai Bing

FMYP USA 1984-1985

Azminuddin Abidin
Lee Yew Jin
Malathi Thevarajah

FMYP CND 1984-1985

Elin Sheerie Dulip
Gan Hong Woon

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1985-1986

Azmi Abu Bakar
Dr. Ng Chiew Lan
Hamidah Mohammad
Hindun Ramli
Kenneth Khoo Winn Khean



FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1986-1987
Shaidatul Aidillah Sulaiman
National Director

Moh Mee Foo
Razlin Zainal

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1985-1986

Ang Jo Ann
Eedy Ahmad
Jawahir Abdul Halim
Mustafa Ma'alim
Shahida Mohd Yaacob
Zuraimey Abdul Ghani

FMYP JAPAN 1985-1986

Azhar Chik
Elean Massat
Harjeet Kaur
Hew Yat Fun
Lee Sui Chin
Noreliza Borhan
Sani Majid

FMYP USA 1985-1986

Anthony E.Gomez
Fay Lee Ai Lin
Irene Yoong Sim Sim
Jovita Boniface
Lili Suriani Mian
Melissa Das
Mohd Rafie Mohd Zahir
Raymund S. Menon
Zainol Iskandar Zainal

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1986-1987

Abdul Manaf Hamid
Aisah Ainuddin
Hairul Anuar Zahari
Lena Gan Su Yui
Rachel Lim Wye Kim
Sally Liew Fui Ying
Selvarajan Veeriah
Shuada Alang Shukor
Sunita Kaur Chopra
Zailina Zainal

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1986-1987

Aini Jaapar
Amin Abdullah
Lee Yew Hsieh
Shaidatul Aidillah Sulaiman
Vivien Quah Paik Im

FMYP JAPAN 1986-1987

Chia Chen Wai
Dayang Mastiah Abang Zamhari
Lau Lee Chein
Mohd Said Jamal
Sharon Malee Sawatt
Siti Safura M.Shariff

FMYP USA 1986-1987

Ahmad Yatim
Ang Hsin Hsien
Fadzlina Idris Merican
Kareena Tan Ee Loun
Lynette Chin
Mohd.Azhar Abu Zarin
Norzila Omar
Tengku Fadil Hisham Tengku Hashim

FMYP CDN 1986-1987
Intan Bazian Mohd Zakaria
Lisa Khamis

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1987-1988

Abdul Halek Abdul Rahman
Amran Sarip
Andrew Lui Kok Kean
Chin Fui Yean
Gan Yen Ling
Hazila Abdul Razak
Norhayati Ibrahim
Sazaruddin Abu Bakar
Valarie Zarin Ryan
Wahiedah Abdul Wahid
Zarinah Mohd Sawede

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1987-1988

Felicita Lee Kim Lian
Jais Hassan
Kang Chin Hong
Roha Mohd Yusoff
Shanti A.S.Ramanathan

FMYP JAPAN 1987-1988

Chang Wan Ping
Mohd Raji Abdul Wahab
Norzanah Mohd Noor
Rashidah Mian
Wang Leong Seng

FMYP USA 1987-1988

Elydar Basri
Lee Ley Hoon
Norhaslida Abdul Malik
Norshamshiah Ali-Afandi
Tang Hooi Kiang
Wong Meow Ling

FMYP CDN 1987-1988

Idris Mudzaffar Malakan

1 MONTH ASEAN PROG JAPAN JAN-FEB 1988

Giridaran Santhira Thesan
Hikmal Talib
Kamarulzaman Che Nik
Norayun Abdullah
Raja Shahrul Azlan B.Raja Sahar
Ringgan Apat

2 MONTH ASEAN PROG JAPAN JUNE-AUG 1988

Adina Joanne Gomez
Gothanayagi Tharmalingam
Ho Mei Choo
Norlaila Ramli
Rozaidi Ali

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1988-1989

Elena Shamsuddin
Kevin Tai Wai Weng
Marcus Tan Kai Swee
Mohd Khairy Abdul Kahar
Nor Faizah Ahmad Kamaluddin
Norizan Muhammad
Norlela Md Nashai
Phua Kim Sim
Wayne C Gallyot
Zaidi Saad

FMYP NEW ZEALAND 1988-1989

Anida Barudin
Kerry Sin Yoong Ming
Nawal Amini Arshad
Paul Ng Jin Meng

FMYP JAPAN 1988-1989

Elaine Lee Ee Leng

Mohd Rozaimi Abdul Manap
Siti Badarny Shamsaifah Hassan
Siti Romia Abdul Ghani
Thing Tock Kong

FMYP USA 1988-1989

Beatrice Leong Siew Nee
Chin Mee Lin
Evelyn Khoo Yue Ming
Noriah Taib
Sukanya Mohandas
Susan Ho Chee Wan
Tan Mooi Hong
Timothy Wee Lee Hin
Zabri Mokhtar

FMYP CDN 1988-1989

Grace Wong
Saiful Andree Abd Malek

FMYP TR 1988-1989

Kim Thiruchelvam
Mohd Azhar Mohd Taib

MASP JAPAN-IPOH/FUKUOKA 1989

Ahmad Farid Hanif
Azlina M Azmi
Wan Norazlin Wan Mohd Isa

MALYP JAPAN-ASEAN 1989

Maizura Mohd Mohayudini
Ong Mei Fang
Rajashree Suppiah

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1989-1990

Anita Danilla Abid
Azuraini Abd Aziz
Hanim Kamaruddin
Hasniziati Mohamed Arifin
Janayah Ismail
Jasmin Musa
Kenneth Yeow Yu Jin
Lawrence Shee Hoon Yeaw
Leong Boo Mun
Michelle Khoo Li Yen
Noernani Snan
Rudy Sutanto Tan
Shafinas Sharifuddin
Siti Airin Abd Ghani
Sonia Sukumaran
Sylvia Koruthu

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1989-1990

Amirudin Arshad
Delbert Chew Khim Yuen
Ezral Ghazali A Malik
Lorraine Lim May Suan
Mohd Nazmi Abd Rahman
Sharon Ko Mei Wan
Siti Zubaidah Mohd Noor
MALYP JAPAN 1989-1990
Eugene Chuan Hui Hoo
John See Fu Han
Ong Su Mei

MALYP USA 1989-1990

K.R.W Shylaja S.D William
Tinkerbelle Love Lee



FMYP JAPAN 1988-1989
Siti Badarny Shamsaifah Hassan
Head of Media Relations WC09

MALSP JAPAN-ASEAN 1990

Lim Hui Yean
Po Sze Chung
Suryati Kasim
Ummi Salamah Suradi

MALYP JAPAN-LANG 1990

Aida Bt D Idris
Fan Wai Mun
Mohd. Saufi Mustapha
Ng Chee Hui
Rodzleen Zainuddin

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1990-1991

Beatrice Dorall
Eleanora June Suran
Hari Ram A/L Ramayya
Ilani Abdul Manaf
Joanna Yeoh Poh Ai
Mohd Salehuddin Yusof
Monica Theresa Gabriel
Nizam Ahmad
Siti Nurazreen Md Zain

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1990-1991

Azham Shah Mohamed
Aznida Ahmad
Cynthia Ng Siew Fong
Elsie Hui
Ida Farini Othman
Mayzatul Alizah Ramly
Mohd Farid Mohd Yunus
Nazhatulshima Nolan
Noor Hazeline Hashim
Tan Hooi Poh
Zetty Zabir



FMYP USA 1974-1975
Dr. Hari Ram Ramayya
Perlis Chapter President

MALYP USA 1990-1991

Alan Ch'ung Yit
Augustine Vong Wai Kuan
Choo Ei Lien
Irwina Liaw Li Fong
Karen Soon Cheng Mei
Lillian Lee Chooi Fong (Hoffman)
Michelle Ong May Yin
Raja Khairul Azman Bin Raja Abd
Karim
Saïda Majina Sahari
Wong Sin Dee

MALYP JAPAN 1990-1991

Albern Murty
Audrey Murugaya
Corina Samsur Baharum
Hallimah Halim
Julia Ismail

MALSP JAPAN-ASEAN 1991

Asmarbaya Ahamd Shahrnizar
Lok Hai San
Raja Shahrul Azremel Bin Raja Sahar
Zaidatul Zunita Abd Rahman

MALSP JAPAN-LANGUAGE 1991

Kanagambigai Mukan

Lim Chee How
Radikamamal Radakrishman

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1991-1992

Anita Md Desa
Fadzlin Mat Shuib
Isabel Yee Wen Bin
Koh Kai Ee
Melanie Cecilia Robert
Mohd Hezrey Mohd Shariff
Sanjay Rampal
Shanthi Supramaniam
Syaiful Riezal Ahmad
Zalina Hj Ibrahim



MALYP USA 1990-1991
Alan Ch'ung Yit
Board Member

MALYP USA 1991-1992

Adelina Tan
Azlin Ahmad Sauti
Jenny Ong Yuen Nee
Mak Hueih Hsien
Noralina Mohd Noor
Sharmlee Audra P Raj

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1991-1992

Caron Sak Wai Mei
Koon Keen Hoong
Lisa Lui
Simon Choi Kam Ho
Siti Aidah Abd Rahman

MALYP JAPAN 1991-1992

Brenda Yong Sook Kwan
Mohd Yunus Hamid
Rozita Ismail
Senny Yap Miow Sen
Simon Tan Keng Sim
Sofina Ariffa Hj Harun

MALSP JAPAN-ASEAN 1992

Farisha Dzolkapli
Jeyanthi Kunadhasan
Noor Kasumaayu Khalily
Pang Chee Fook

MALSPJAPAN-IPOH/FUKUOKA 1992

Chow Kit San
Malim Arshad Mohd Zain

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1992-1993

Adlikha Mohd Khalid
Chua Wei Ting
Jason Hing Aik Mun
Lim Eng Khim
Majmin Ismail
Normawati Mohd Roji
Ramanathan @ Valiappan Meenash-
isundaram
Siti Juhana Jamian

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1992-1993

Khoo Czee Eng
Norazaliza Kukoh
Shazalya Mohammad
Soh Lay Chit



MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1992-1993
Shazalya Mohammad
Co-Chair WC09

MALYPJAPAN 1992-1993

Cheah Wan Wai
Kong Tai Seng
Marnirar Miza
Shamsul Anhar Baharuddin

MALYP FINLAND 1992-1993

Nurina Anuar
Kamalia Husin

MALSP JAPAN-ASEAN 1993

Wan Shairi Wan Ahmad

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1993-1994

Azlan Sani Zawawi
Henry Wong Leong Khean
Irwan Fauzi
Koon Mei Ching
Lal Kumar Ravindran
Leeau Min Yau
Mohd Fasluldeen Abdul Hadi
Tan Ka Yuen

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1993-1994

Azdini Nor Azman
Benny Chung Ch'ung Long
Tun Mafiza Tun Majid
Zainol Eliza Zainal Abidin

MALYP JAPAN 1993-1994

Ainil Yasmin Mohd Yusof
Goh Pui Yoke
Roslan Abdullah
Siow Syl Via

MASYP FINLAND 1993-1994

Mohd. Hafidz Ali Bajunid
Siti Zahariah Mohd Noh

MALYP USA 1993-1994 (NH)

Elanangai Venugopal
Tan Lin Tze

MALSP JAPAN-LANG 1994

Chew Yen Fen
Florence Oh Yeok Kim
Gan Han Yeen
Noaidawati Embong
Sharifah Nor Zainab Bt Syed Hamzah
Syamsul Bahtiar Mahali

MALSP JAPAN-ASEAN 1994

Chang Shu Wei
Lim Ming Hsiang
Norazmi Hasan
Yuen Yin Fong

MALSPJAPAN-IPOH/FUKUOKA 1994

Alina Hertseft

MALYP JAPAN 1994-1995

Ahmad Danyai B Ali
Alicia Yeong Hui She @ Alizia Dhillon
Jonathan Poh Tze Teng
Loo Lay Chien
Marisa Chee Yee Moi

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1994-1995

Ahmad Rizal Samsudin
Houng Kian Yung
Yeoh Chai Gaik

MASYP USA 1994-1995 (SH)

Geraldine Goh Mei Shan
Hanita Sayuti Bt Saripaton Radwan
Juan Fuad B Mohd Lazar
Mohd Fazli Haji Mustafa
Nor Azlina Abdul Wahab
Ong Ming Ai
Ong Su Ling

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1994-1995

Cheryl Chang Yoon Lin
Khoo Lay Woei
Lee Swee Ping
Shahril Bt Salehuddin Isa Teoh
Vasanthi D/O Arjunan

EDU NEW ZEALAND 1995

Loh Kea Yu

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1995-1996

Audrey Karen Barry
Audrey Lee Li Hsien
Ho Wai Ee
Lee E-Tshin
Roger Tsen Kai Lun

MALYP AUSTRALIA 1995-1996

Jason Leong Wen Liang
Lakshmy Thavi Balakrishnan
Lee Chee Meng
Lee Mei Young
Randolph Alexander Wong
Sanjiv Rampal
Tang Lee Szen

MALYP USA 1995-1996

Azleen Mohd Azmee
Cheong Ngee Fui
Karen Kuch Li Li
Law Kok Yoon
Ng Poh Ling
R. Pattammal Vijini
Thanaraja Balakrishnan
Ting Che Yong

MALYP SWITZERLAND 1995-1996

Balamurugan Nallama
Ng T'ze-Mae

MALYP ARGENTINA 1995-1996

B.Sathya Devi Joyce
Koburajah Tharamarajah

MALYP BRAZIL 1995-1996

Ahmad Shahir Sharifuddin
Chok See Wai

MALYP JAPAN 1995-1996

Amieza Abd. Aziz
Azimah Abas
Chong Yun Hor
Lee Swee Lin
Mohd Hisham Hashim
Mohd Razi Ismail
Sharifah Shazreen Shabi

MASSP-LANG 1996

Estee Wong Seow San
Foo Sze-Shir
Henry Phua Chye Chun
Umi Aimah Abu Bakar
Wong Wai Pun

MAS ASEAN 1996

Anand Rao

Intan Juliana
Navin Ramaswaran
Yap Kok Kent

JAPAN-IPOH-FUKUOKAPRGM 1996

Kee Lian Yuan
Jessica Low Yuk Leng
Robert Lai Wheng Chung

MALVL NEW ZEALAND 1996

Siti Khadijah Hassan

FMYP AUSTRALIA 1996-1997

Ahmed Azzaad Navamukundan
Alvin Ho Jim Leong
Fadzrul Dullie D/A Jannifer Dullie
Ho Su Farn
Jamie Khoo
Manisa Mohamed Nor
Paul Wong Chuan Yew
Sandra Ratnam
Ti Chin May
Yoon Szu-Mae
Yvonne Lee Xiao Ching

MALYP NEW ZEALAND 1996-1997

Andrew Voon Peng Fai
Low May Lee
Sunita Supramaniam
Wong Tze Wei

MASYP USA 1996-1997

Alison Wee Wei Jong
Daniel Nicholas Yap
Dawn Darlene Lee
Khairul Nizar Mohd Arip
Kong Ming Siem
Lazarina Long Ahmad
Suman Sharda Jagdish Mitter

MASYP SWITZERLAND 1996-1997

Meree Bt Othman
Nasreen Ma Czin

MASYP JAPAN 1996-1997

Dennis Seah
Jody Lim Yee King
Muhammad Faizal Musa
Sonia Chin Sze Ling
Toh Li Lian

MASYP ARGENTINA 1996-1997

Allen Lewellyn Masudal
Philip Chew Soon Kiang
Renuga Kunchi Raman
Rosallynn Poh
Sum Chew Leng

MASSP UNITED KINGDOM 97

Chee Kok Heng
Gan Siat Yean
Jessica Ng Su Tzin
Kelly Ng Hui Li
Melinda Lea Munang
Tre Kok Shaun
Tung Hsiao Ley

MASSP FRANCE 97

Amin Syahiran B. Othman
Azrul Hakim Lokman Hakim
Kahirun Nissa Shagul Hamid
Mardhiyyah Nasiruddin
Melissa Ann Mohan
Rena Sharleen Md. Roshdi
Shaman Raj Thliamplam
Subir Che Selia
Winon Lye
Yap Shuin Wei

MASYP USA 1997-1998

Jason Chin

MASYP USA 1998-1999

Angela Nyam Mong Ching
Choong Chee Hui
Humphrey Roria
Kong Ming Siem
Koo Qian Yu
Lazarina Long Ahmad Zainal
Liew Ket Kiong
Melissa Liow Chun Fong
Nora Ng Wai Full
Saila Sree Angamuthu
Tan Huey Yoke
Tay Soon Ee
Vinson Tan Piow Choon

MASYP SWITZERLAND 1998-1999

Ida Faranina Bt. Othman
Lai Ann Li
Ranjeetha Pakiam

MASYP AUSTRALIA 1998-1999

Adrian Tan Choong Meng
Goh Hui Lynn
Ho Kean Fui
Lee Yeok Yin
Lisa Lim Tao Yen
Ng Shiau Ching (Jeannie)
Nicholyn Chang Tse-Huey
Ong Su Kin
Serena Lee Yuen Peng
Siew Mei Kwan
Sri Gayathri A/P Velayutham
Tengku Noorul Ashikeen
Timothy Lee Hock Seng

MASYP NEW ZEALAND 1998-1999

Cheryl Sim Mei Chern
Govind Jenarthanan
Sharon Yap
Suraya S. Teoh
Terence Mark Stephens

MASYP ARGENTINA 1998-1999

Andrew Khor Chin Kooi
Ciron Moneytheyve Nagathan
Firdiana Fadzil
Ong Wu Chun

MASYP JAPAN 1998-1999

Abdul Razak Ahmad
Anushia Kandasamy
Cheah Cheng Shin
Gerardine Shaunte L.
Ida Fazlina Jamros
Lee Ling Ling
Loh Ling Lee
Melinda Liow Chun Foon
Mohammad Radzee Bakar
Ong Sheau Chine
Shafizah Umamah
Shireen Kaur Pannu
Toh Fong Meng

MASSP JAPAN 1999

Chan Yit Wei
Chin Kwan Hsiung
Heng Ming Li
Irene Liew Suet Fun
Jasdeep Singh Gill
Sharon Chin Oi Kheng
Stewart Quah Wee Chern



MASYP AUSTRALIA 1998-1999
Sri Gayathri Velayutham
Assistant Secretary WC09

Wan Mohd Azli**MASSP ITALY 1999**

Irene
Khor Chin Shin
Koh See Tang
Nawee B. Jamros
Nor Ashikin
Yunza Han

IPHSSH ITALY 1999

Nur Muhyannas
Raiha Shahnaz Md. Gh
Shalini Reginald Anand
Tay Shin Yea
Yap Kok Wui

IPCSNH JAPAN 1999

Chin Kwan Hsiung

MASYP USA 1999-2000

Gerald Tan Yu Liang
Leong Chin Tho

MASYP AUSTRALIA 1999-2000

Deepika V Hassaram
Mathanaseelan A/L Thavasimuthu
Michelle Tay Ee-Suet
Previnder Singh Bhar
Rasydan Mohd Razali
Rinawati Bt Md Saad
Wan Ee Lin



MALVL NEW ZEALAND 1996
Siti Khadijah Hassan
Head of Homestay Programs WC09
Galatti Award Winner 1997

MASYP SWITZERLAND 1999-2000

Suriani Abd Rani
Yew Chee Jyi

MASYP JAPAN 1999-2000

Chee Huey Shy
Dzulkipli Abd Rani
Koay Beng Sim (Rachel)
Lee Mei Hann
Mori Hiroshi
Ng Po Eng
Norsyarina Bt Aziz
Tan Wei Mun
Siang Yeow Tiong

MASYP NEW ZEALAND 1999-2000

Dayang Noraizah Abang Yusop
Chin Yee Chen
Erik Fong Ngai Yin
Koid Jian Hsiang
Lee Mei Chen

MASYP ARGENTINA 1999-2000

Ong Sheau Chi
Vivien Wee Wei Yen

MASSP FRANCE 1999-2000

Alwin Ng Yoke Ping
Amir Bin Hamzah
Eyza Farizan Bt Mokhtar
Janifer Yap Lee Queen
Lim Paik Lyn
Lum Chan Theng
Melisa K. Panabakaran
Nik Nifziah Haidi

Raha Sulaiman
Shen Kaining

MASIP ITALY 2000

Azreen Zahira Bt Mohamad Draitm
Chen Wei Siong
Chooi Wai Fun
Ho Sze Yen @ Phebe
Irsyauddin Ismail
Kong Phui Lyn
Nisha Devina Roy-Joshi
Ong Eng Hong

MASIP FRANCE 2000

Chung Chin Han
Gordon Ivan Anak Hilary Giang
Intan Syafina Bt Mond Sapien
Nur Muhaymin Bt Mahyuddin

MASYPSCSH GERMANY 2000

Syazwani Omar

IPHSSH NEW ZEALAND 2000

Ann Wong
Leong Loo Chiun
Japson Wong Vun Hueng
Teo Jie Sheng
Nisha Paul
Nurezlin Kirti
Sanjay Tejani
Siti Nadhirah Jailani
Edward Ooi Teck Pin

MASSP NEW ZEALAND 2000

Haizul Amri Mohd Dzulkafli
Irene Rajagobal
Kho Sue Ann
Michelle Ong Pei Yi
Yong Mae Wei

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Chung Ee Von
Loh Pei Ge
Sabrina S. Teoh
Loh Pei Gie

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Christine Leong Li-Yin
Fiona Ann Sanggang
Jonathan Sim Kok Ming
Liew Hui Swan
Oh Chen May
Yap Jee Jean

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Raiha Shahnaz Md Roshidi
Shalini Ananda A/P Reginald Anada
Shivani D/O Nagalingam
Shukreen Ma Bt Nasir Ma Lee

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Colin Harveen Poobalan
Hong Jayeen
Ian Lee Chee Ming
Jason Lee Wen Yau
Joanne Wong Pui Mei
Jonathan Ong Zhi Yong
Veenesh V. Selvaratnam

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Khoo Yit Phang
Lau Yee Wei
Luiza Thomas
Mobby Moo Pei
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Alissa Khoo
Foo Ee Lin
Yoke Yong Meng

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Sanjiv Daevin Arunasalam

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Aw Yong Wang Tien
Ivan Poh
Lim Wei Ching

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Jayme Khoo Wen-Ying
Johanna Lim Vei
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Michelle Shamini Gunaselan
Raha Sulaiman

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Alan Foo Yaw Rhen
Lilea Chan
Soo Lin Keng

YPSCSH SWITZERLAND 2001

Khoo Cai Lian

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Michelle Tai
Mohamed Azad Noor Azman
Mohd Zul Fakhri Abd Rahaman
Nadiyah Binti Kamsani
Sia Chew Wang
Tay Wan Ying
Victor Liaw Yeh How

YPSCSH JAPAN 2001

Jayky Hong
Khoo Hsien Huey
Alissa Khoo Yit Hia
Ng Po Koon
Reyhan Ma
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Uma Tharumarajan
Wee Tze Zhao

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Amy Ang Mei Yan
Lim Wei Ching
Oh Swee Ling
Tan Siew Cheng
Zhishen Lim

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Arvin Singh Randahwa
Chin Yee Ching
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Nadiyah Tajuddin
Nimalan Neelakandan
Puteri Syafawati Faizan
Sharifah Suhaila Mohd Ramli

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Chen Siaw See

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Arvind Nambiar A/L Reventhiran
Chew Lee Sian
Teo Jie Sheng

MASYP USA 2001-2002

Lee Hsu Chuin
Valentino Vickneesh Dass

MASYP ITALY 2001-2002

Cheah Ui Aik
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Alia Baizura Bt Razali
Amanda Tan Min Ling
Cheang Ka Man
Cheong Yee Lan
Chin Yee Ching

Chong Wai Yue
Chung Hooi Na
Esther The Thien Yeen
Hanisa Binti Salehin
Khoo Hsien Liang
Ku Chi Ling
Lee Yan Ying
Leong Xiao Ying
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Nadiyah Binti Tajuddin
Nurashikin
Puteri Syafawati Binti Faizan
Sharifah Suhaila
Siti Norazreen Binti Mohamed
Sivagami D/O Sivalingam
Veneesa Sinsua
Vincent Liaw Yeh Sern

MASYP SPAIN 2001-2002

Wong Lee Sa

MASYP AUSTRALIA 2001-2002

Kirsten Sin Sze Min

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Benjamin Loi
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Fong Kim Lim
Norshila Subari

YPSCSH USA 2002

Lee Hsu Chuin
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Anand Dave Singh
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Head of Information
Technology WC09

Sin Sze Min
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Leong Shen Nyan
Nor Diana Ghazali
Too Chin Voon

MASYP SPAIN 2002-2003

Ho Yune Jung
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MASYP NETHERLAND 2002-2003

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Keith Wu Zhi Wen
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Kah Wai Putt

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Annabelle Tan Li Hwa
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Leong Wai Sing
Nazahah Zainal Abidin
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Tham Kwee Lian
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Galveen Kaur
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Chan Su Hui
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Chow Xian Hui
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Samuel Chan Bok Yoong
Tan Chen Wah

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Chang Sz-Yii
Choo Wan Da
Koay Yit Mei
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Wan Bazlishah Wan Abdul Muin

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Jack Chan Wai Kit
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Aniza Bt. Abdul Rashid
Bhrendtha Subramaniam

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Ng Sin Yee
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Khoo Yit Keng
Lau Ching Fong
Liew Yan Bin

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Gloria Wong Siaw Jiun
Nazahah Zainal Abidin

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Selina Sharmalar Solomon

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Tan Yi Szean

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Chung Wai Yee
Hazrina Mohd Yusuf
Lim Su Yu
Loi Weijie
Mardhiah Zainal Alam
Mohd Afdzal
Nor Farizah Abdul Munin
Soraya Azhar
Tengku Yasmine Kamaruddin
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Na Wei Lun
Ong Yih Fan
Rodzleen Zainuddin
Ruth Vinoth Amarasuriya
Teo Then Kuay
Ting Mae Ann

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Abdul Hakim Abdul Razak
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Chong Kit Liang
Edwin Goh
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Ong Doen En
Shazawati Bt. Mohammad
Suriya Bt. Abdul Hadi
Victoria Wong Poh Yi

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Carlos Heng Hoc Shaun
Najibah Bt. Ali
Nuha Nadzrahah Bt. Suzaly
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Tan Yi Shzean

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Natalie Kan
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Shalini Joanne Niles
Zetty Norfatma Mustapha

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Chin Jun-Xing
Ching Gin Jing

Chong Lee Li
Dona Liyanna Sabariah Azmi
Fong Kim Jee
Gan Ming Teik
Heng Fook Yew
Ching Gin Jing



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Khoo Chee Khong
Koo Yen Shan
Kristene Marie
Lee Ching Leng
Lee Huei Yih
Lee Min Dee
Lee Soo Sin
Lim An Dee
Long Lai Peng
Mak Kah Yuet
Mastura Mokhtar
Mohd Ikmal Mohd Nasir
Najibah Ali
Natasha Shariff
Ng Soo Chien
Nuha Nadzrahah Suzaly
Sheikh Omar Hisham Sheikh Said
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Tan Siao Huei
Tan Yik Leng
Teng Mun Lee
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Wong Jia Jin

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Johari
Karen Yeap Phei Ching

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Chuah Sceuchin
Darmarisyanto Alias
Diana Shantini Miller
Divakaran Vasudevan
Fatimalfalah Nordin
Kho Ming Shen
Mohd Afifi Ishak
Mohd Rafie Mohd Redzuan
Muhammad Asri Ibrahim
Nurain Saiful Ahmad
Nurul Adani Yasid
Santhia Tharumarajan
Shareena Kamarull Bahsha
Sharifah Hannah Mary Syed Mustapha
Kamal
Syamsu Hazwan Jaafar
Syed Nabil Syed Abdul Nasir
Tan Tyan Wei
Toh Jung Wei
Yap Yi-Liang

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Arthur Wong Tze Ming
Catherine Chia Mei Meoy
Lai Kar Mun

Lim Chern Hooi**SMYESSHUSA 2005**

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Andrew Loh Zhu An
Ayu Nurul Syuhada Mohamad Fauzi
Azri Bin Ahmad Zuhari
Cassandra Lee Ying Ying
Chain Ee Mun
Charlie Teo Chun Chieh
Cheang U-Xinn
Chuah Jie Ni
Fahmiew Bin Abdullah
Gan Pei Ling
Guruparan A/L Dharmalingam
Ho Hann Yeong
Jessica Kan Ian Wei
Joseph Foo Che Zhu
Kelly Ch'ng Koon Koon
Kenneth Yeo Kah Kai
Lau Xin Yu
Liyana Binti Suhimi
Mastura Ahmad Ramdzan
Melissa Alison Liew
Muhammad Faiz Bin Othman
Nor Husna Bt Md Adnan
Nurul Fadzni Muhammad
Nurul Fathiah Bt Mohd Aminuddin
Rachel Kedung Bulan
Tan Yuan Ying
Zuleika Ab Malik

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Cassandra Michelle Paujik
Cheah Seanli
Chin Li Mun
Christine Ong Tze Xin
Darren Soon Jeong Ming
Darryl Ch'ng Bok Shann
Eugene Lim Zhen Wey
Goh Heng Chan
Hazwani Amirah Ruslin
Ho Ek Han
Izra Jasmine Atique Ahmad
Jasmeen Nurhani Julayhi
Joycelyn Tye Li Tinh
Julia Chan
Kamlinimisha Pulandran
Lee Ai Win
Lee Tet Kuog
Lim Mei Fen
Ooi How Yee
Salveender Kaur Jasvir Singh
Sharon Alaina Stephen
Siti Khadijah Azizol Hasan
Stefanie Bong Wenli
Sue Chye Yueh Chien
Wong Tian Ping
Yang Lee Yuen
Yap Lee Phin

VSSCNH 2005

Andy Ngew En Hui
Chong Chia Shin
Joris Grouwels
Liyu Zin Eu
Nancy Nesha Parames
Nur Anisah Mohd Razali
Siti Khadijah Azizol Hasan
Siti Nurani Ismail
Siti Nurizzahazlina Ros

EDU NEW ZEALAND 2005-2006

Lucy Margaret Ratnam
Mercy Mathew
Nazhatulshima Nolan
Stella Jayamalar

EDU EGYPT 2005-2006

Shoba Devi A. Balakrishna

**MASYP NEW ZEALAND 2005-2006**

Leanne Chan Li Yee
Wong Jing Yearn

MASYPGERMANY 2005-2006

Chong Cheng Yee
Chua Han Chun
Khor Jia Wei

MASSP ITALY 2005-2006

Elizabeth Beh Li En
Felicia Yeow Xinyi
Goh Yi-Kheng
Lim Shea Lee
Regina Wong Pei Yu
Sim Jun Yi



SMYESSHUSA 2005
Jessica Kan Ian Wei
Past YES Alumni President

Tamilarasan S/O Muniandy
Yee Li Hui
Yelena Ramli
Yong Kah Ee
Zan Zarifah Bt Zainal

MASYP JAPAN 2005-2006

Christine Tan Wan Na
Elena Wong Shu Mei
Jaclyn Chua Jia Wen
James Goh Heng Chan
Khoo Hsien Yew
Nurhaida Bt Badrul Hisham
Siti Rabiah Mansor
Suraya Bt Zainudin

MASYP SWITZERLAND 2005-2006

Lee Chong 'En
Sharmin Devinder Cheema

MASSP FRANCE 2005-2006

Nadirah Ahmad Kamil
Haniff Rahman Bin Johar Razali

MASSP SPAIN 2005-2006

Amrish Adrin B Johan
Nicholas Tan Zhia Chern
Jolynn Kek Yen Ai
Azreena Abdul Rahman



MASYP JAPAN 2005-2006
Suraya Zainudin
Assistant of WC09

MASIP JAPAN 2005-2006

Logeswaran A/L Selvarajah
Loh Man Loo
Looi Yen Ying
Mohd Akmal Hakim B Mohd Sharom
Muhammad Juahir B Jaafar
Ng Yuan Hooi

YPCSH 2006

Andrew Wong Jian Wye
Augustine Ong Wing
Brian Chok
Chin Kann Ginn
Chong Fei Sun
Christine
Desmond Wong Kok Chun
Eda Frida Salleh
Ejaz Atique Ahmad Ferhan
Goh Tal Heng
John Wong Yau De
Jon Tan
Kaichen (Breonna)
Khoo Chee Seng
Kimberly Ling Shen Zhett
Kok Ying Fan
Lee Chongshen
Lee Tet Roy
Lim Hui Li
Lim Xin Ying
Low Jia Ming
Luanne Lim
Maria Wong Qin
Muhammad Fahmi Mohd Shukor
Ng Mei Ting
Ng Zi Yen
Nulullia Chojo
Nurul Nafisyah Mohammed Jamlus
Ooi Shin Pey
Pow Su Pei
Shangkari Paskaramoorthy
Shim Bao Li
Stefanie Quah Li Jin
Tan Yi Yuan
Tham Kin-On
Wong Fei Shu
Yeap Ken Vin

SMYESSHUSA 2006

Ahmad Hazim Mohamed Amin
Anjulie Ling
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Bhupinder Singh Beluan Singh
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E Laine Chong
Esther Yong Hwa Foong
Gary Yeow
Goh Shih Yi
Hazralika Hamzah
Ili Nazieera Mohd Sohed
Jini Jaswi
Joanne Nicole Lim
Kan Wai Kit
Kelvin Ying
Lawrence Anak Mayau
Lee Si Wen
Lum Chan How
Mohd Hafizi Mohd Shukri
Mohd Syakir Zailani
Mutharasapan Lakshmanan
Ng Yah Tyng
Ramlah
Sheena Maria Mosses Jesudas
Shhobaa Palan
Suhairie Bah Ali
Syahnim Azlin Razali
Syed Mohd Amierul Asyraf
Tee Foong Tsin
Teo Chin Hai
Ting Shin Wei
Treza Aizureen Zulkeffly

VSEDSH 2006

Delon Leong
Evangeline Khoo
Lai Ying Ying
Nedumaran Linggapan
Nirmala Arunsalam
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Kow Swee Yin
Quek Peck Hea
Teo Hwee Ai

MASIP JAPAN 2006-2007

Pravind Nambiar Ragavan

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Edeson Juanliq Low
Keu Heng Chao
Tan E-Lynn
Therese Kam

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Chia Su Yin
Eugene Goh Chun Kit
Lim Wei Chia
Nur Zatil Aqma Zool Azha
Thayalan Tharumarajan

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Fion Teo Ten Ern
Ho Chui Ping
Kiran Kaur a/p Gurdial Singh
Liyana P.V. Anversha

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Alithea Wong Wy Zhen
Cheah Yi Peng
Niu Hansen
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Premjeet Singh Malhi

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Agan Francis Robert Balangalibun
Arththi Sathananthar
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Choong Miao Chien (Joycelyn)
Chua Qing Shi
Colin Gan Hock Keng
Dewi Vadhana M Youraraja
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Iffah Ishak
Ilmulhaq Nordin
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Jonathan Lee Xiang Wei
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Lee Chui Yee
Shannen Lim Yong Loo
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Mohamad Hidir Ramli
Muhammad Azhan Mohamad Rabi
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Nicholas Kang Aun Tan
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Qistina Kamarudin
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Siyan Loh
Timothy Tam Wae Yih
Trisha Tan Wen Yuan
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Alisya Suraya Sulaiman Hon
Brian Wong Wei Jye
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Cheryl Ch'ng Shing Yi
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Heng Yi-Yun
Jayvian Hong
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Lai Yi Weun
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Mohammad Izzat Morshidi
Monica Anne William Chirstph
Nabilah Ali
Ng Phei Jin
Ng Shun Ming
Noorelynn Hanim Abdul Halim
Pow Su Chian
Raghunath Shanmugam
Sharlene Teo Shu Lin
Shaun Anthony Stephen
Shimron Lim
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Tan Wei Loong
Tan Loo Peng
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Teoh Chai Chern
Tham Jee Jung
Veronica Tan Si-Ann
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Wilson Lim
Wong Yean Jiunn
Yap Yen Yen
Yapp Jia Hong
Yeo You Rui
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Lawrence Mayau
Nasser Mohamad Solleh
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Anbarasan Rasadurai
Anwar Fader
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Chong Li Lian
Chua Pei Ching
Devaindran Elango
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Fatin Abdul Haddy
Fatin Amirah Iskandar
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Gajentheran Selvarajah
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Lee Tan
Lee Theng Ying
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Leonard Sinclair
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Liyana Mohd Arif
Low Yen Jing
Low Yi Jun
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Nur Izyani Farhana Azmi
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 Ungku Ismith Syafiq Ungku Khalid
 Wong Whuan Lye
 Woon Ee Hwa
 Yap Norman

AFS Abbreviation

WP – Winter Program
 YP – Year Program
 IP – Intensive Program
 SH – Southern Hemisphere
 NH – Northern Hemisphere
 HS – Home School
 SC – School Program
 VS – Very Short
 ED – Education
 EDU – Educators
 CL – Culture Studies
 SP – Spanish Language
 SM – Semester
 TR – Tri Semester
 MAS/MAL – Malaysia
 FM – Federation Of Malaya / Malaysia
 LANG – Language
 MNP – Multi National Program
 YES – Youth Exchange Study



How YOU can help!

- ◆ As a student, participate in an exchange program
- ◆ As a parent, host a foreign student
- ◆ As a teacher, work for a period ranging from 2 weeks to a year in a foreign country
- ◆ As a friend of AFS, volunteer and help out at AFS functions and activities
- ◆ As a corporate friend of AFS, sponsor events and functions
- ◆ If you are already a friend of AFS and a volunteer, introduce others into the AFS World

What do you gain?

- ◆ The satisfaction that YOU individually or as a Corporate Citizen, have contributed towards better understanding amongst people of different countries
- ◆ You establish a bond of friendship with like-minded individuals from other countries
- ◆ You broaden your horizon
- ◆ You become a Citizen of the World!
- ◆ You have in your own small way contributed to world peace

Challenge

If everyone reading this, gets involved in just one of the above activities, we would have immediately DOUBLED the current AFS activities worldwide.

Are YOU up for the Challenge?



Our sincere appreciation to the following:

Individuals

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 *Dr Yahya Mat Hassan
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 *Esther Teh
 *Fadzillah Yassin
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 *H.E. James R Keith, Ambassador of the United States of America to Malaysia
 *H.E. Karchava Alexander Alexeevich, Ambassador of Russia to Malaysia
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 *Shukreen Ma bt Nasir Ma Lee
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 *Shazawati Mohammad
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 *Siti Khadijah Hassan
 *Siti Ruqayyah Idris
 *Sri Gayathri Velayutham
 *Suraya Zainudin
 *Thiruchelvam Subramaniam
 *Wan Edi Wan Sophean
 *Watt Marvien Medang
 *Zamrah Ismail

Groups

*8TV
 *AEON Co (M) Bhd
 *AFS Malaysia Hosted Students, YPSH 2009 & YPNH 2009/2010 and Community Service / Waeltwarts Participants 2009
 *Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya
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 *Berita Harian
 *Carlsberg
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 *Community Infozone (Radio announcements)
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 *Ipoh Echo
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 *Kedah Chapter
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 *Malacca State Government
 *Malay Women Training Institute, Melaka (IPPM)
 *Malaysian Families who open their home for Malaysian Home Experience
 *Malacca Chapter
 *Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Heritage (KEKKWA)
 *Ministry of Information, Communication, and Culture (KPKK)
 *Morten Village, Malacca
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 *NTV7
 *One Word Travel Services
 *Penang Chapter
 *Pensonic Sales & Service Sdn Bhd, Penang
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 *Perlis Cultural Office
 *Perlis State Government
 *Perlis Tourism Action Council
 *Plus Sunrich Sdn Bhd, Johor
 *Polis Diraja Malaysia
 *PR Mode, Group C, Public Relations Sequence, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies University Technology
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 *Remaja Magazine
 *Royal Norwegian Embassy
 *Royal Thai Embassy
 *RTM
 *Russian Centre for International Scientific & Cultural
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 *Sarawak Chapter
 *Seremban Chapter
 *Sin Chew Jit Poh
 *Sinar Harian
 *SMK Cannosian Convent, Melaka
 *SMK Infant Jesus Convent, Melaka

*South Seas Offshore Sdn Bhd
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To all of you, our heartfelt thanks for assisting AFS Antarabudaya Malaysia in making AFS World Congress 2009 a success!

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